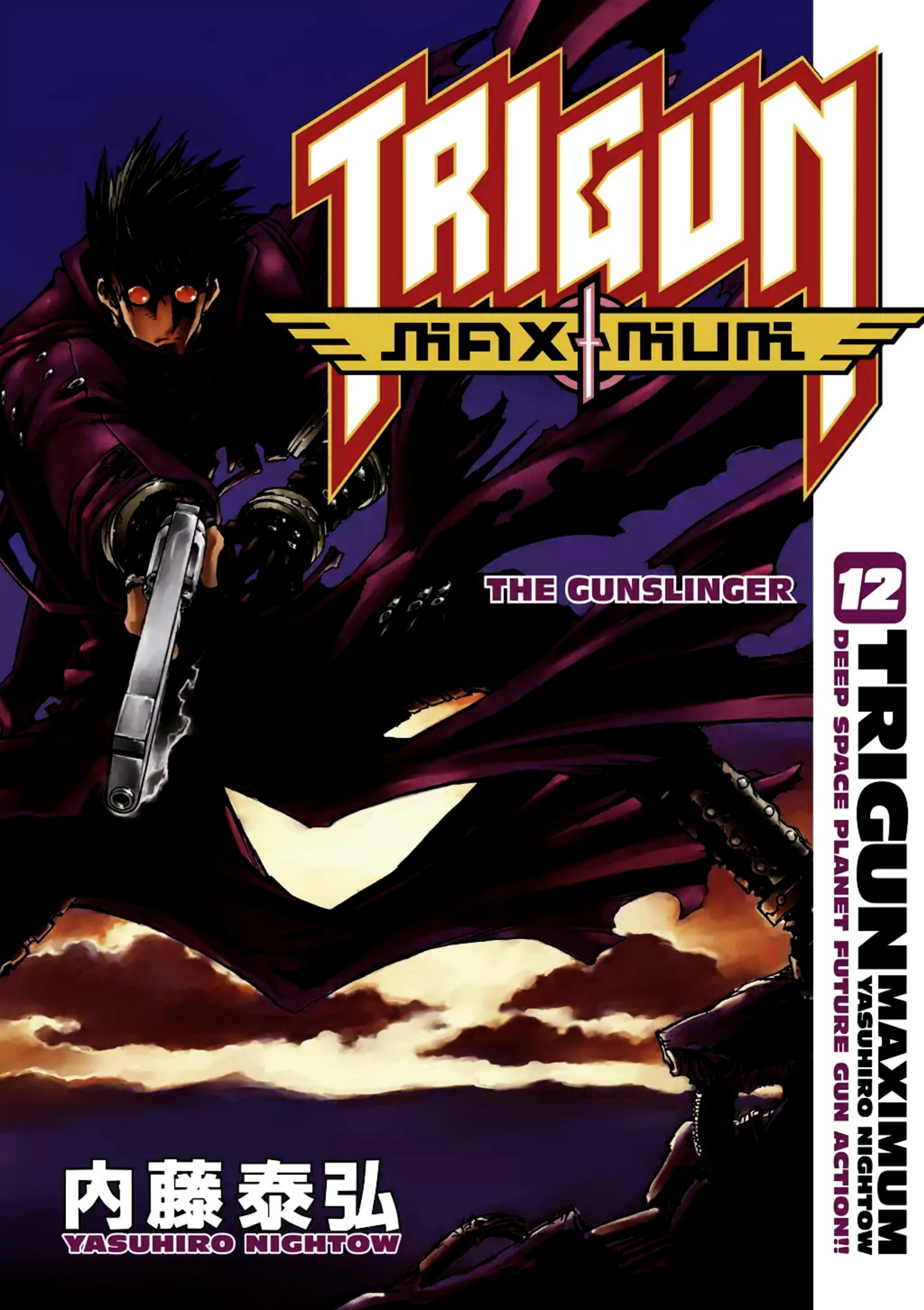
TRIGUN
MAXIMUM
THE GUNSLINGER
12
TRIGUN MAXIMUM
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW
DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!
内藤泰弘
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

YOUNG KING COMICS
TRIGUN
MAXIMUM
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The Gunslinger
12
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YASUHIRO NIGHTOW
CV:by ナタダ
内藤泰弘
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

TRIGUN MAXIMUM ULTIMATE VOL 12: THE GUNSLINGER

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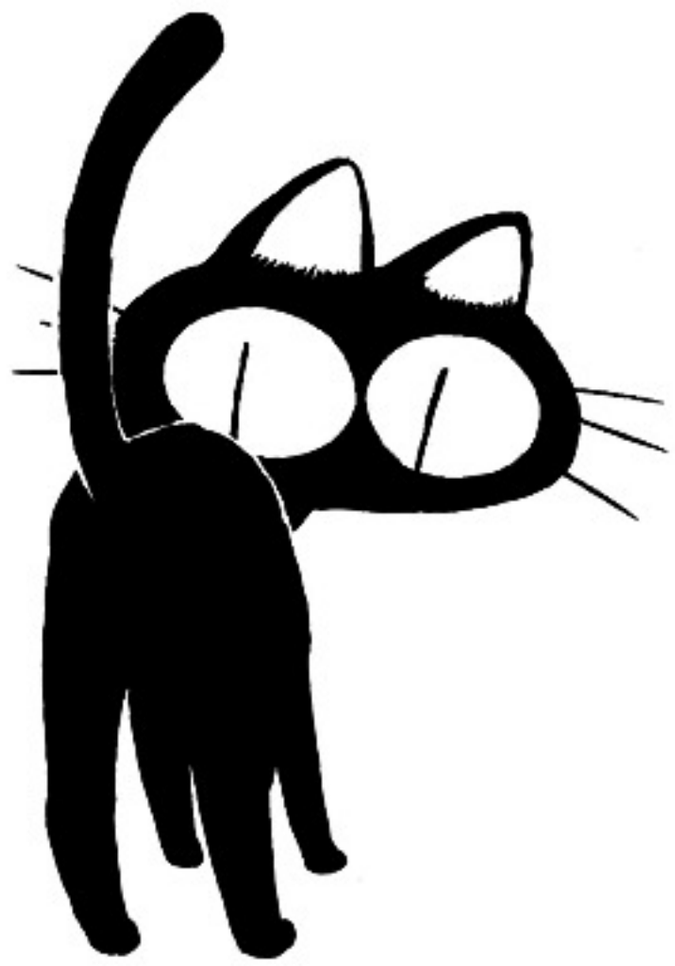


TRIGUN MAXIMUM 12

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION

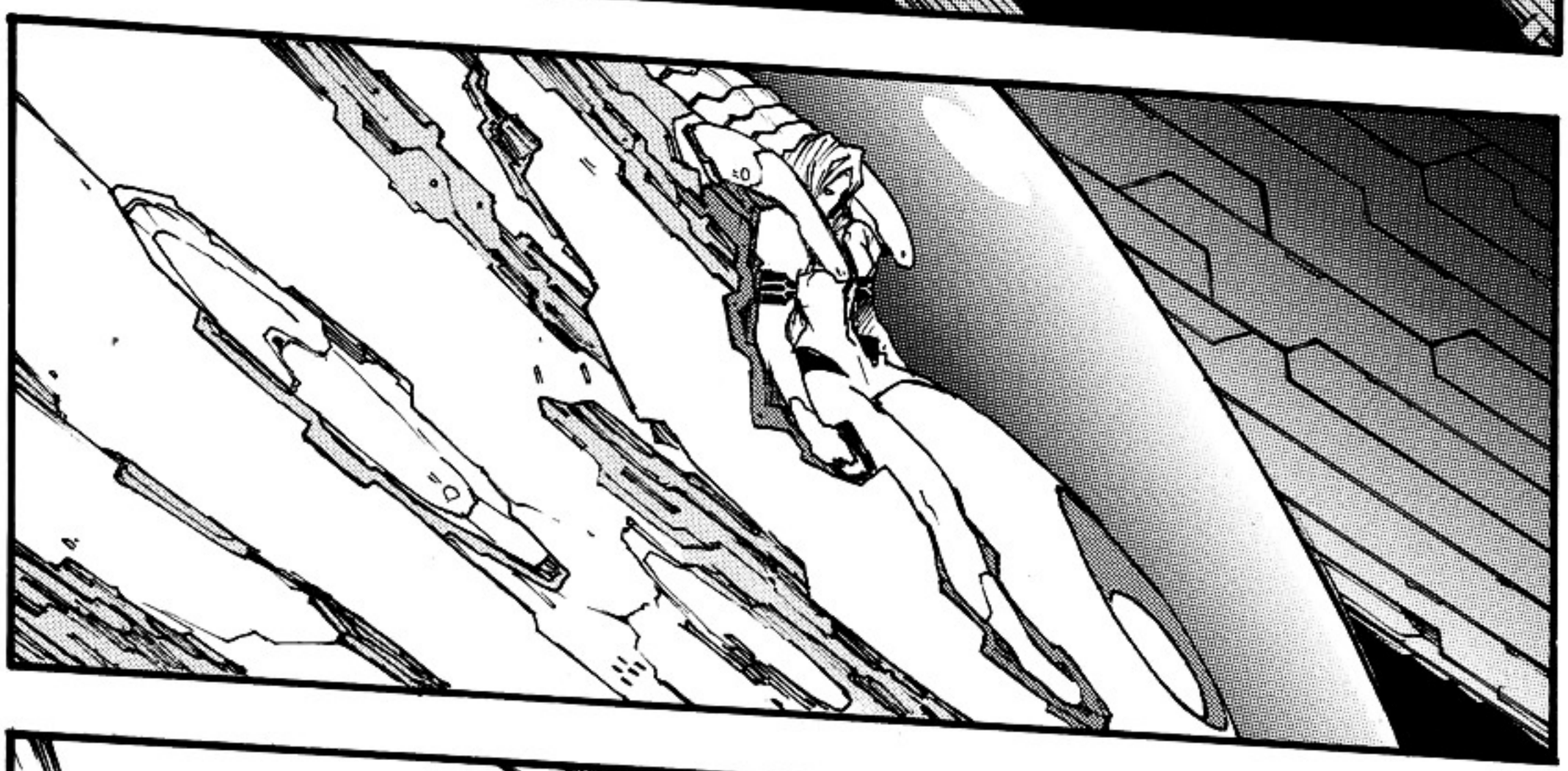
トライガン・マキシマム

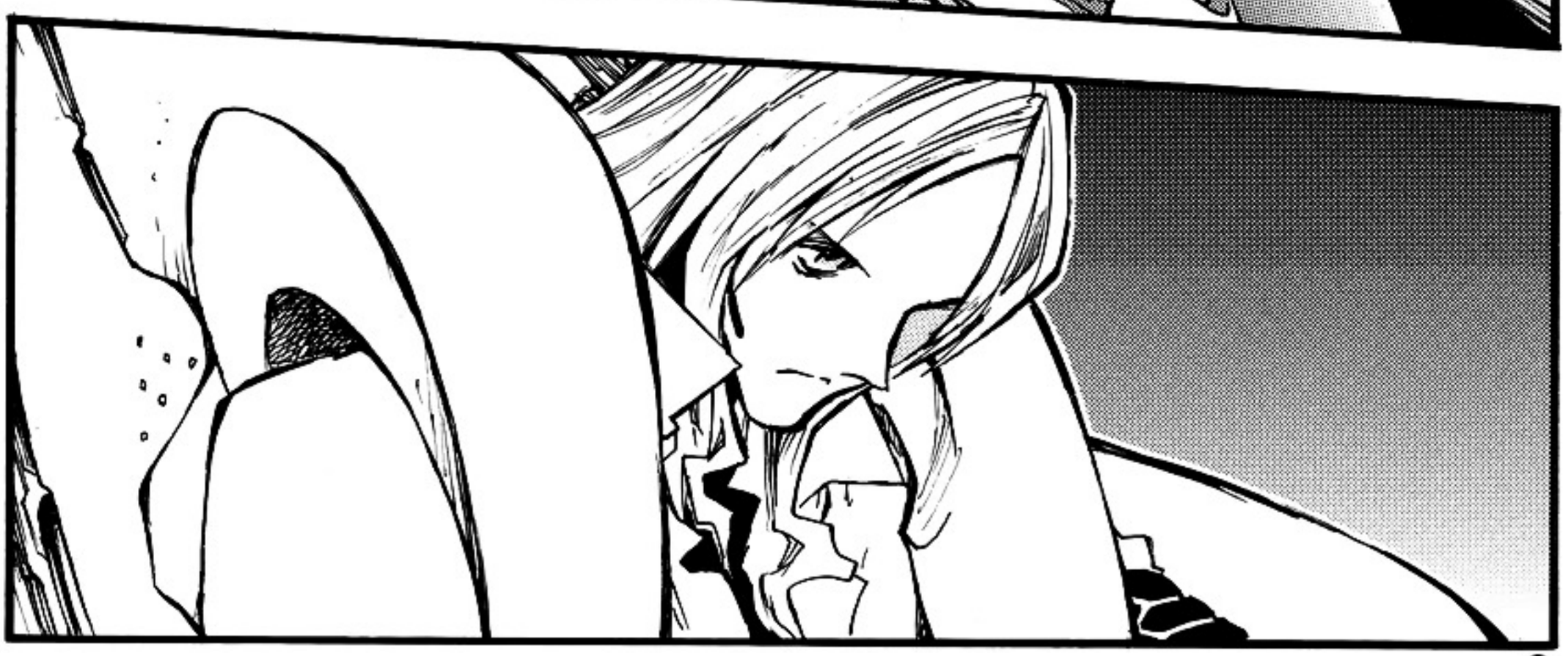
内藤泰弘

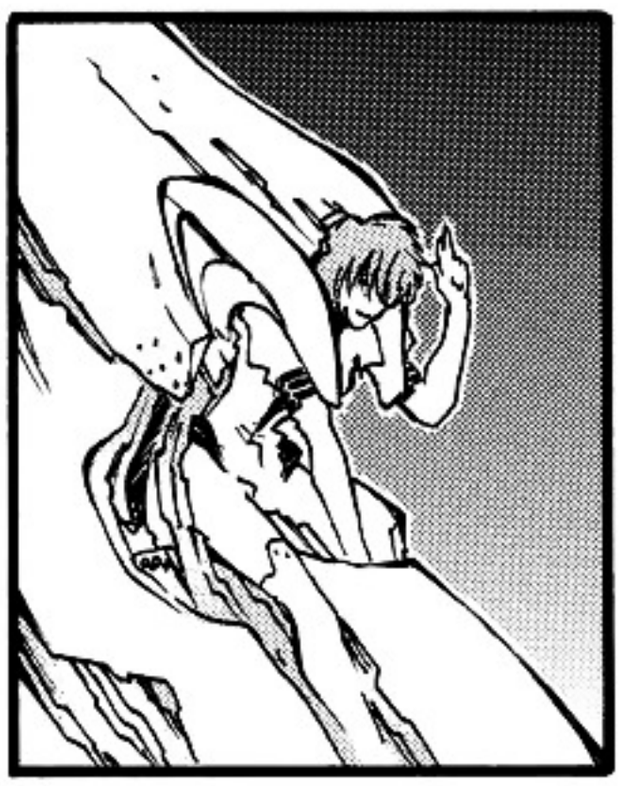
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

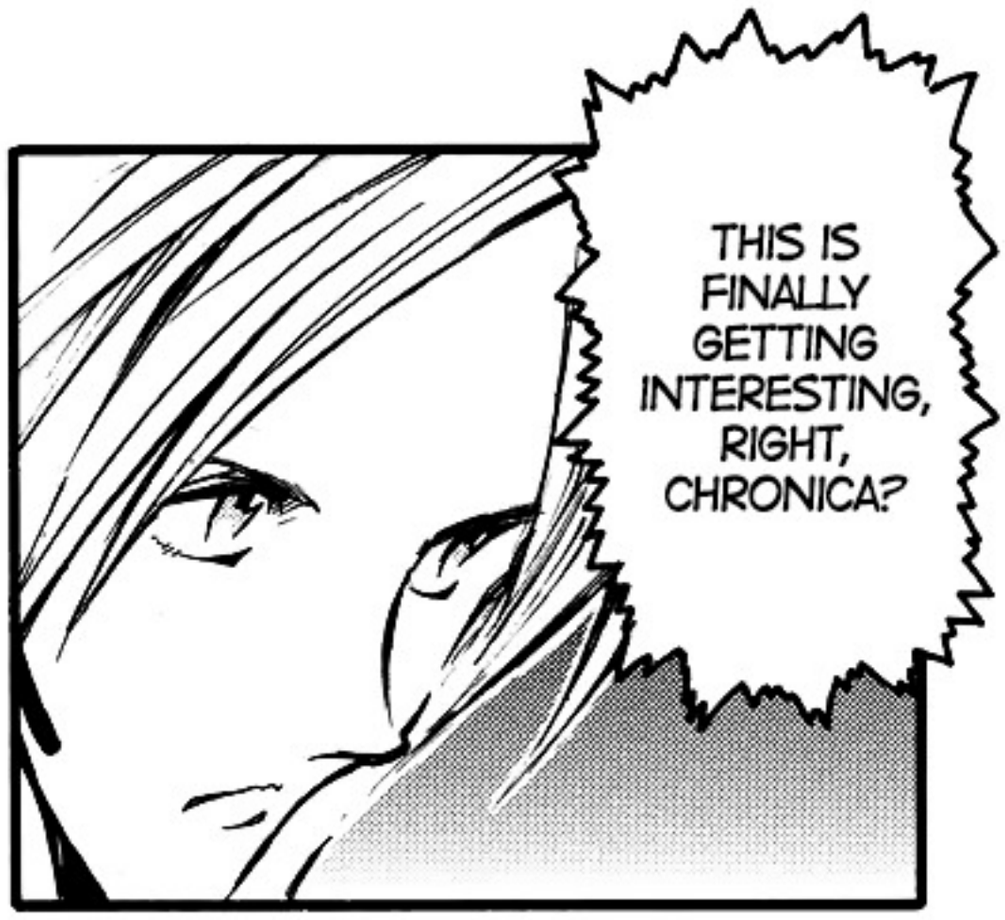
DEFENSE HANGAR OPENED! IMPACT FIELD DEPLOYED!
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL ORDERS FROM THE COMBAT BRIDGE ARE TOP PRIORITY!
BATTLE STATIONS! BATTLE STATIONS!
ACTIVATE SC AND WS! ACTIVATE ADA! INITIATING SYSTEM CHECK!

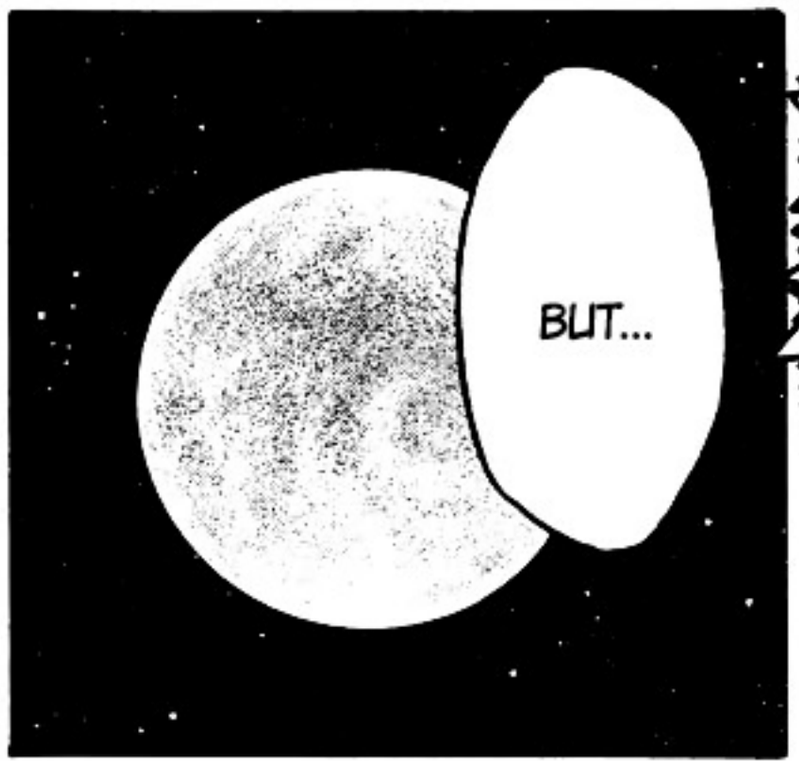
#01. THE END OF THE JOURNEY AND THE ECHOES OF BREATHING

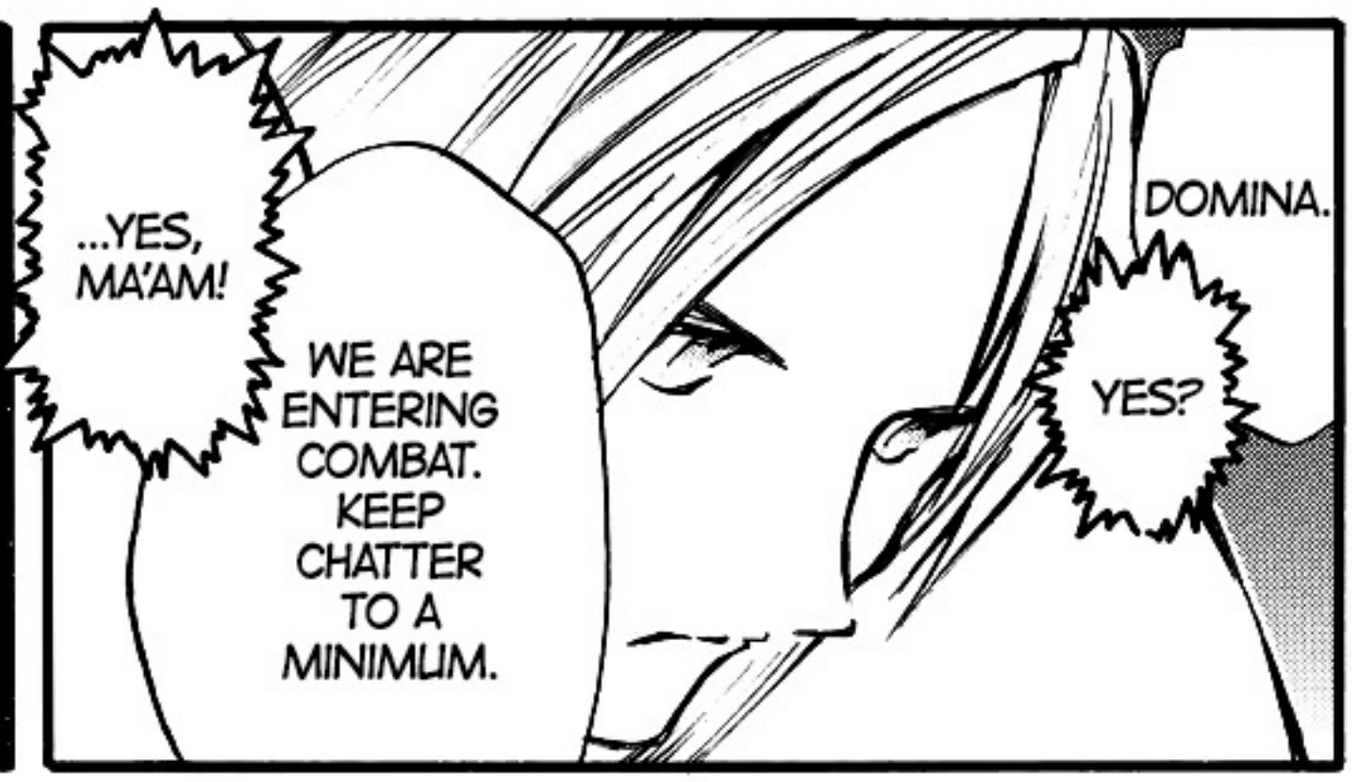






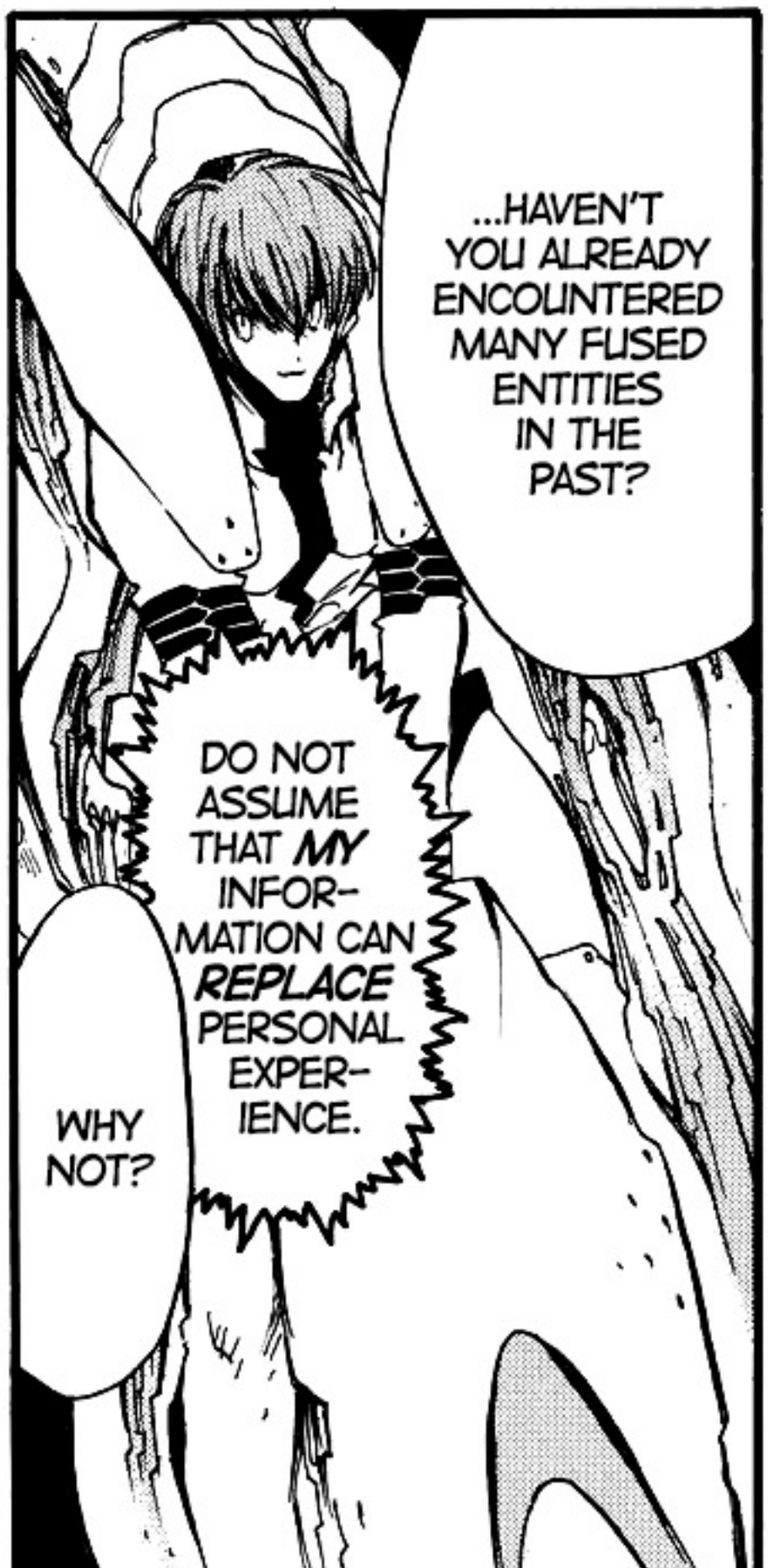

THIS IS FINALLY GETTING INTERESTING, RIGHT, CHRONICA?

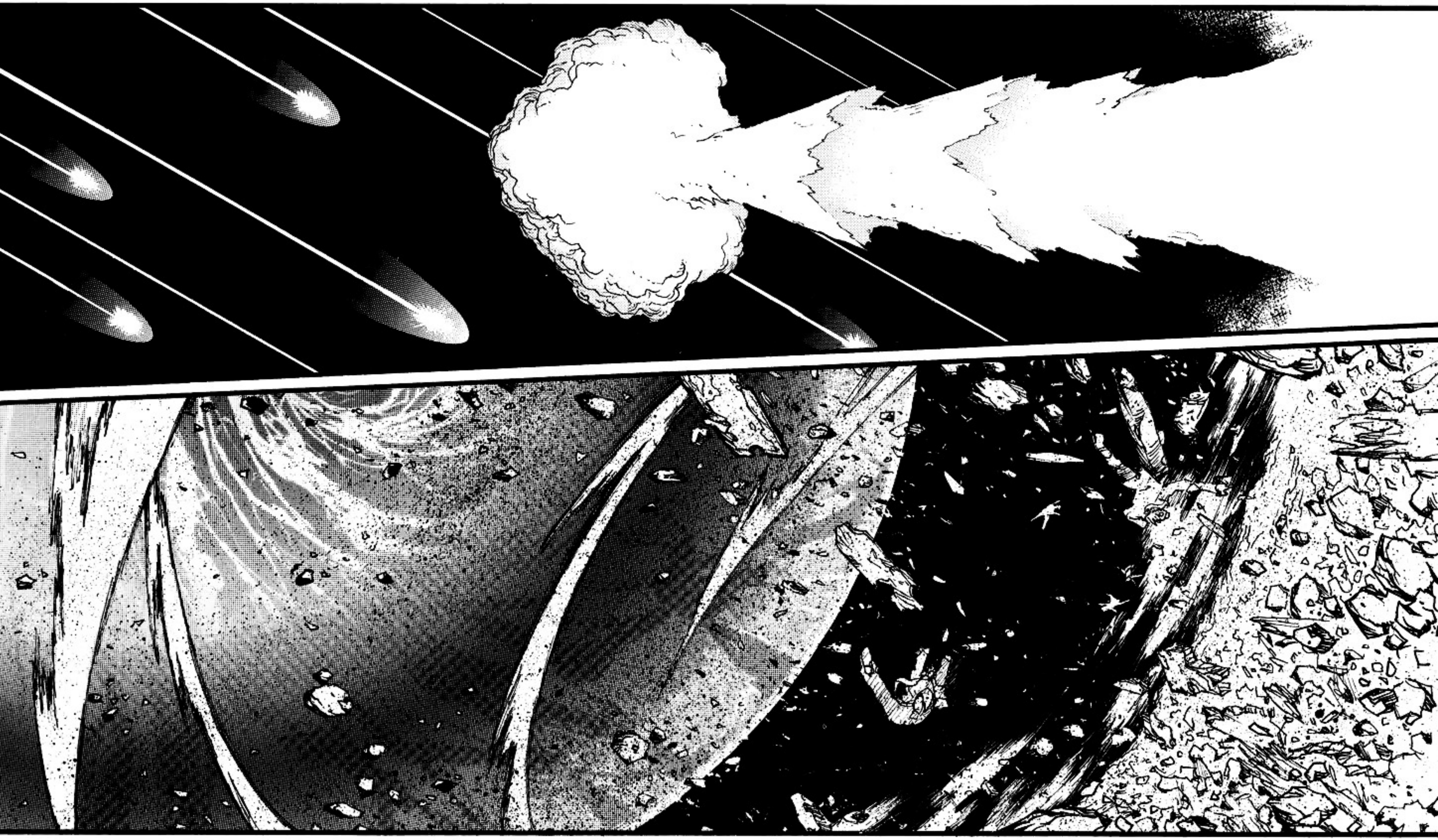

BUT...

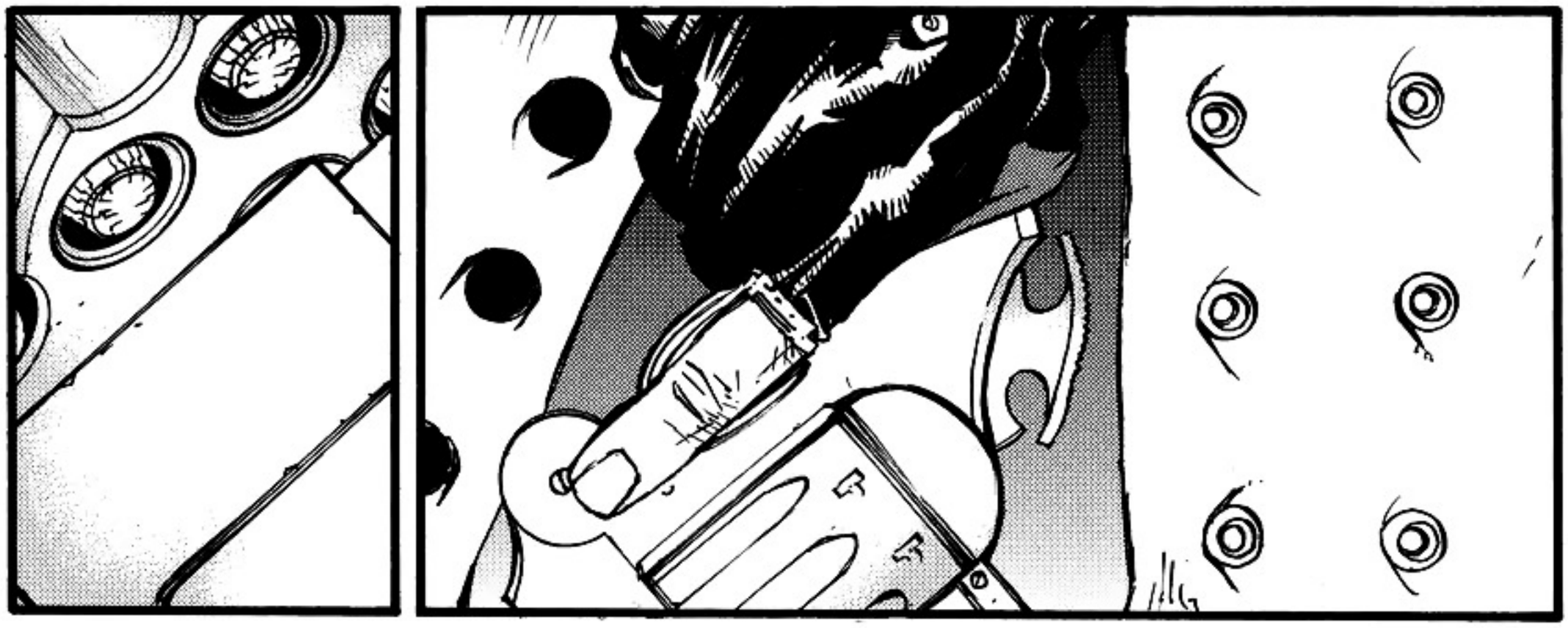

...YES, MA'AM!
WE ARE ENTERING COMBAT. KEEP CHATTER TO A MINIMUM.
DOMINA.
YES?

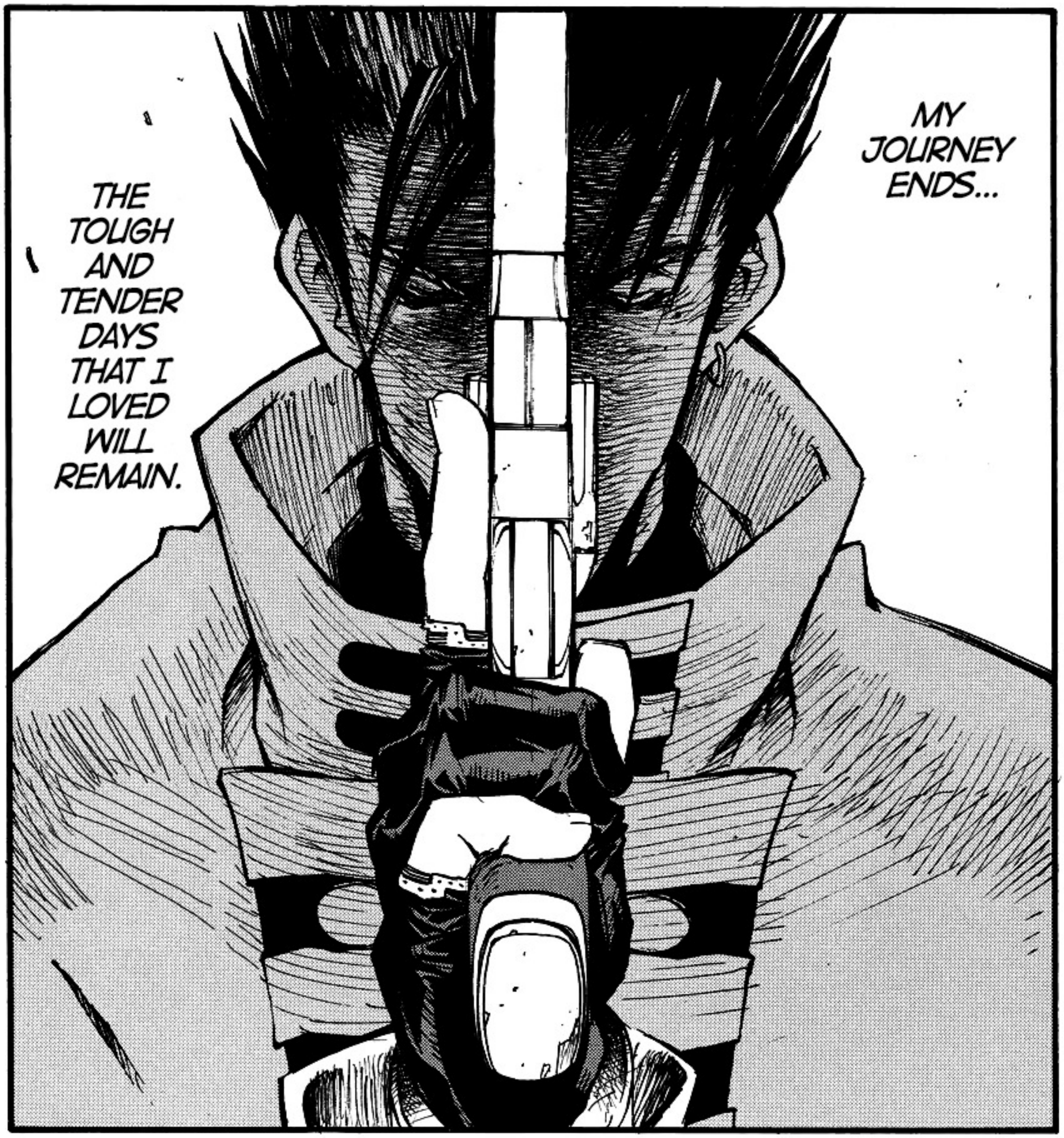
TIME TO GO!

WE ALREADY SHARE ALL OUR DATA.
YES WE DO, BUT THAT SHOULD NOT ALLOW YOU TO LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.


...HAVEN'T YOU ALREADY ENCOUNTERED MANY FUSED ENTITIES IN THE PAST?
DO NOT ASSUME THAT MY INFOR-MATION CAN REPLACE PERSONAL EXPER-IENCE.
WHY NOT?






THE TOUGH AND TENDER DAYS THAT I LOVED WILL REMAIN.
MY JOURNEY ENDS...

THOR'S HAMMER.
CODE NO. W44D+
ENTERING.
ANTI-PLANT MISSILES READY FOR LAUNCH.
?!
WHY ARE WE RESORTING TO THAT SO QUICKLY?!
WHAT?
WEREN'T WE GOING TO TRY AND BREAK THE FUSED ENTITIES APART?
THIS IS NECESSARY.
WHY?!
PLEASE ENTER WARHEAD CODE.

IT IS OUR TOP PRIORITY TO GAIN THE ADVANTAGE THROUGH A *PREEMPTIVE STRIKE.*

THE INDEPENDENT HAS TAKEN THE *EXTREME* STEP OF FUSING, SHOWING THEIR WILL TO EXPRESS THEIR POWER THROUGH *ACTS OF TERRORISM.*

THE WORST CASE SCENARIO COULD BE AN OPENED ENERGY GATE THAT EXPANDS OUT OF CONTROL.

ALL THAT POWER IS *TOO MUCH* FOR A SINGLE CONSCIOUSNESS TO HANDLE.

DO YOU *UNDER-STAND,* DOMINA?

BUT-!

THAT WOULD BE *PER-FECT.*

THEN THIS WILL END *QUICKLY.*

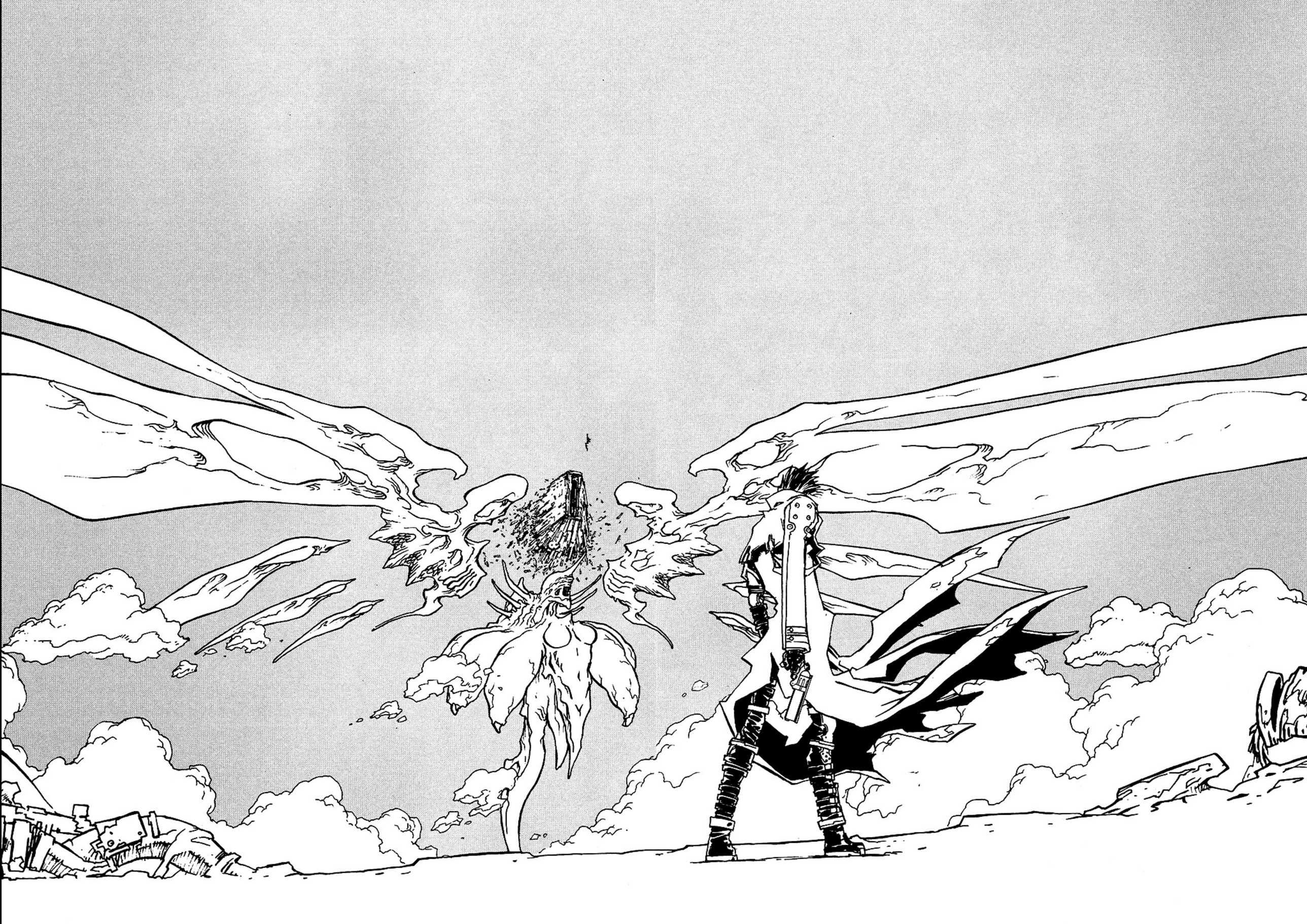
BUT IF THEY DON'T SEE IT THE SAME WAY...

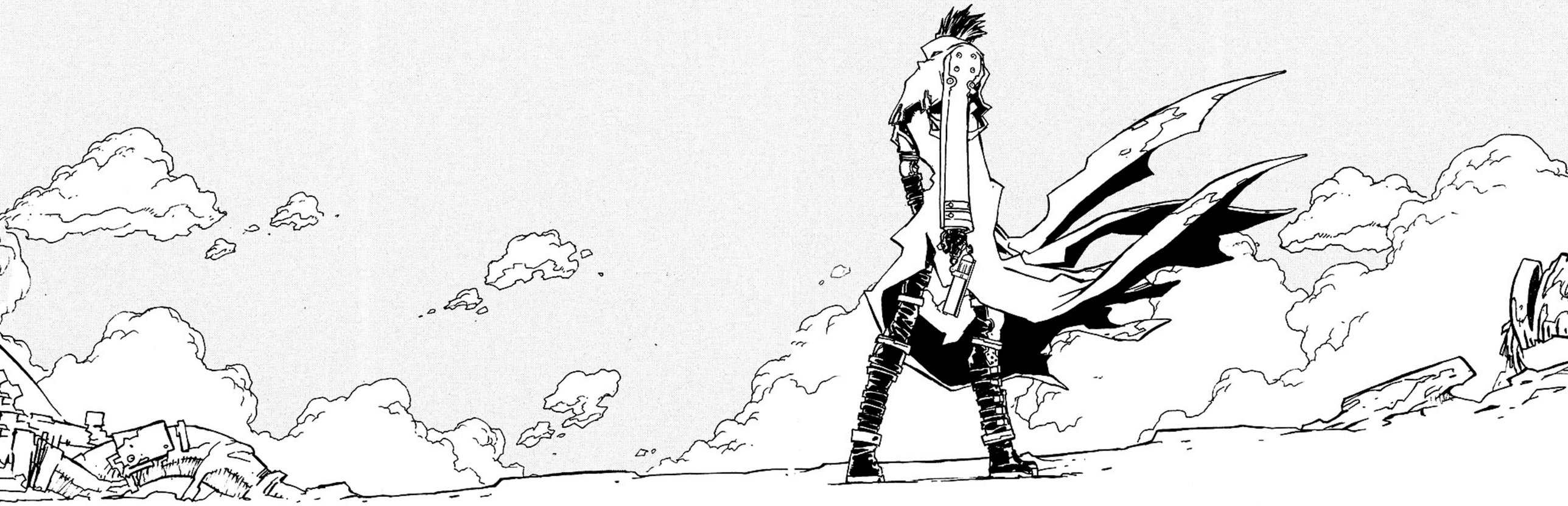
...WHAT THEN?

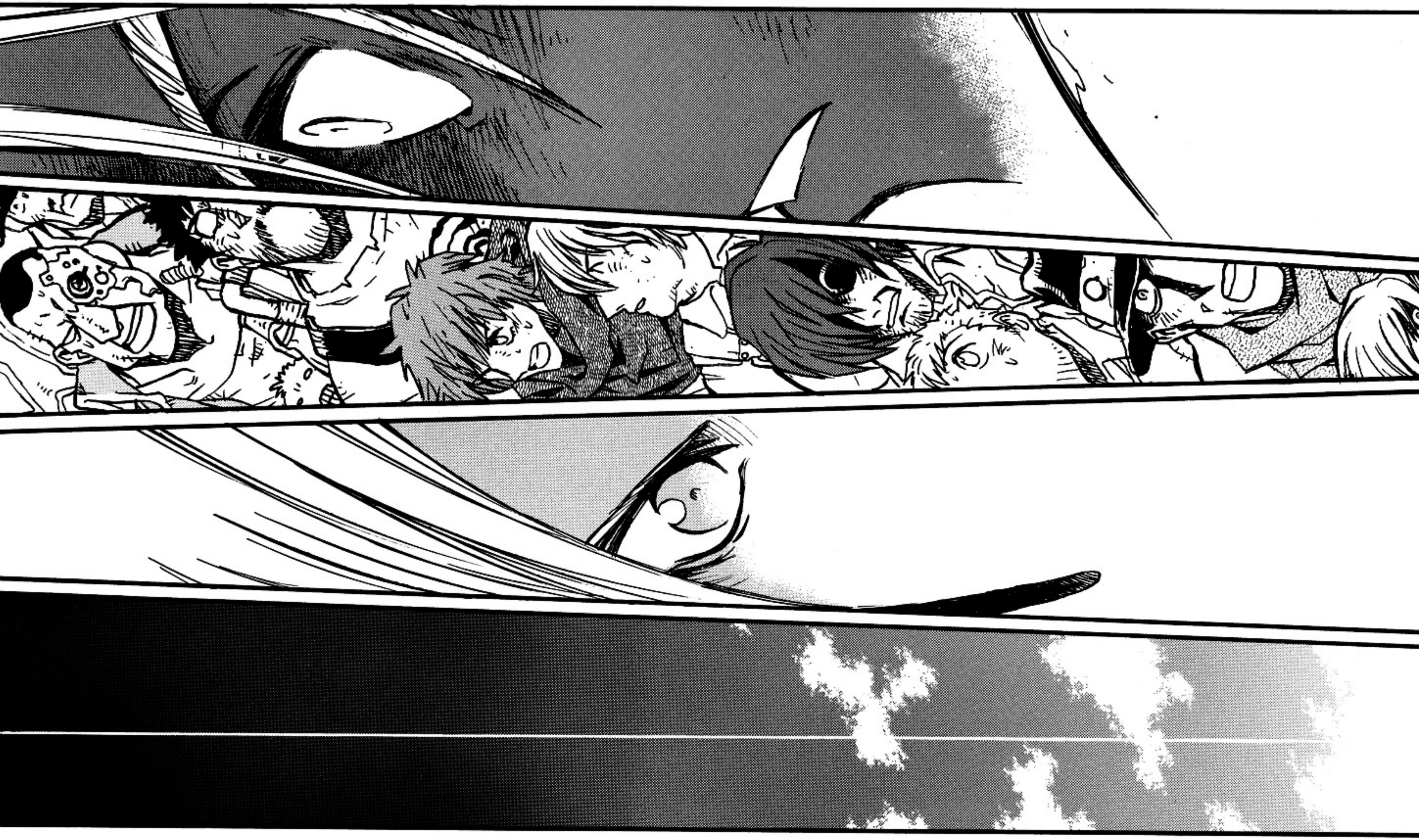
YOU MUST FORGET THEY WERE ONCE A PLANT LIKE US.

BECAUSE THAT *THING* DOWN THERE IS A MASSIVE THREAT TO US *ALL.*

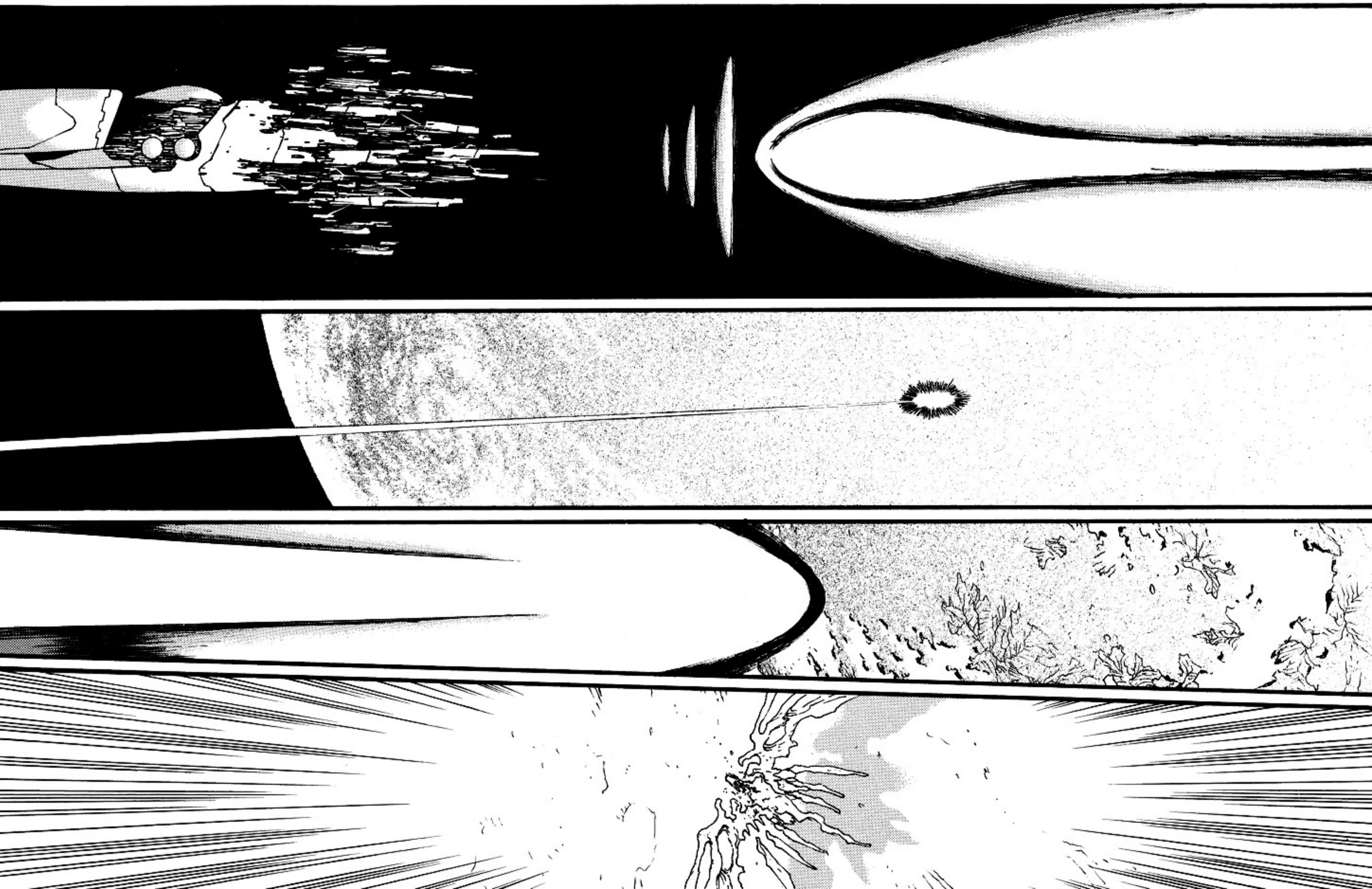
I CAN STILL HEAR YOU.
UNDERNEATH HER COLD, CALCULATIVE EXTERIOR IS A FIERY BRUTALITY.
...
...
SHE REALLY SCARES ME...
THOR'S HAMMER WARHEAD READY TO FIRE!
ENGINES AT FULL POWER!
CLASS F WAR-HEAD LOADED!
4...
FIRING IN 5...
1...
3...
2...
ALL SHIPS FALL INTO RETURN SHOCKWAVE PROTECTIVE POSITIONS.







#01. THE END OF THE JOURNEY
AND THE ECHOES OF BREATHING / END



AA AA AH!
GA AAA AH!

WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
DID THE TARGET JUST JUMP A WHOLE KILOMETER?!
#02. CORROSIVE THUNDER

UN-BELIEV-ABLE!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH POWER THAT ALONE WOULD TAKE?!

NOT TO MEN-TION...

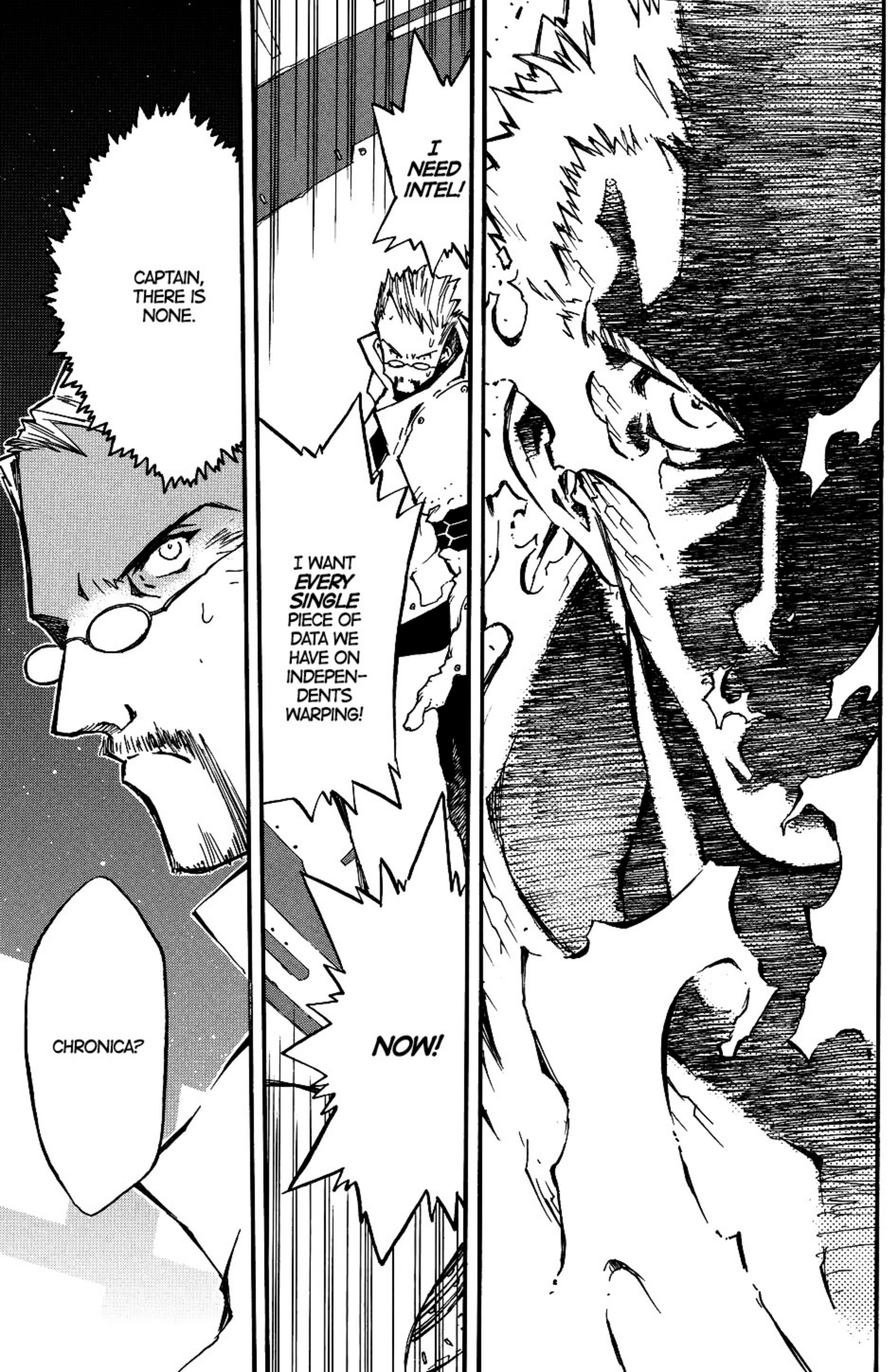
...THE EXTREMELY PRECISE CONTROL IT WOULD REQUIRE.

I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE.

...IT WAS A SHORT DISTANCE WARP?!

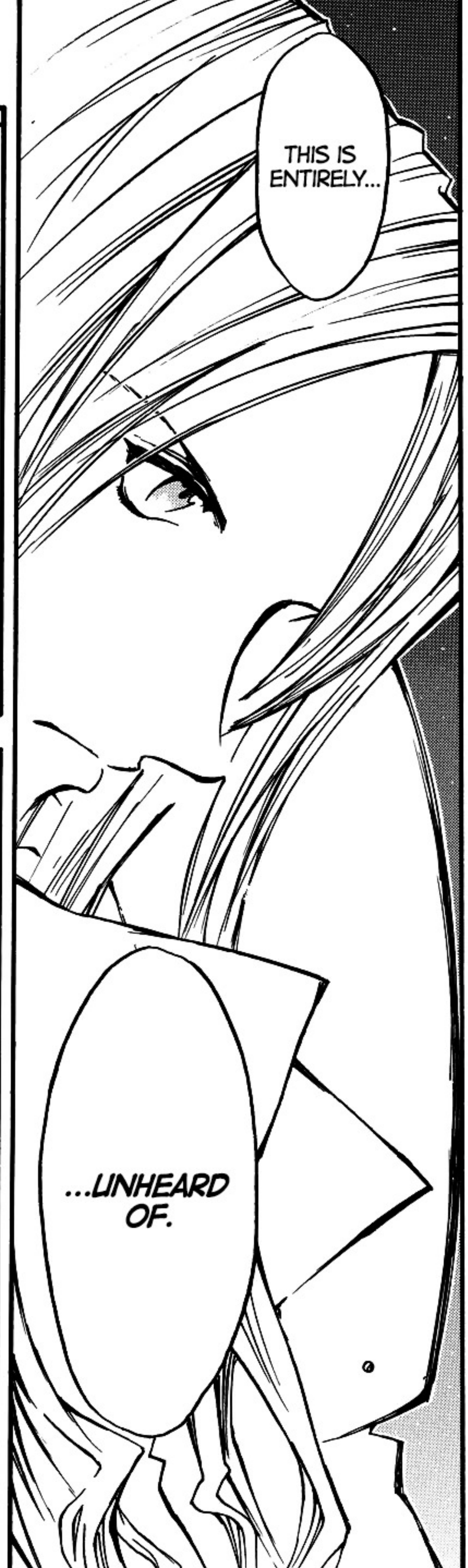
I'M DETECTING A SPACE DISTORTION!

THAT WOULD MEAN...


CAPTAIN, THERE IS NONE.
CHRONICA?
I NEED INTEL!
I WANT EVERY SINGLE PIECE OF DATA WE HAVE ON INDEPEN-DENTS WARPING!
NOW!

WHAT IS IT, DOMINA?

YOU'RE AMAZING, CHRONICA!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE AS CALM AS YOU RIGHT AFTER SEEING *THAT*.
YOU ARE IMPOS-SIBLE.


THIS IS ENTIRELY...
...*UNHEARD OF.*

SEARCHING THROUGH ALL THE DATA FROM THE PAST TWO CENTURIES SINCE WE BEGAN COLONIZING THE UNIVERSE...
...THERE IS NOT A *SINGLE* RECORD CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT A LIFEFORM CAPABLE OF PERFORMING A WARP ON ITS OWN.

AND NOW OUR CHANCE TO GAIN THE UPPER HAND HAS PASSED.

ALL THAT TO AVOID THOR'S HAMMER.

THEY TOOK SUCH AN ENORMOUS RISK AND USED HUGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY TO PULL IT OFF.

WE ARE FORCED TO ADMIT THAT WE GROSSLY UNDER-ESTIMATED OUR TARGET.

...THE TARGET WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTACK THE CITY.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

IT WAS A BOLD MOVE.

AND NOW THEY'RE IN THE ***BEST*** POSSIBLE POSITION.

THEY COULD EASILY ATTACK FROM BELOW ANY MOMENT NOW. KEEP CLOSE WATCH!

UNDER-STOOD, CAPTAIN.

SET DEFENSES TO LEVEL 5.

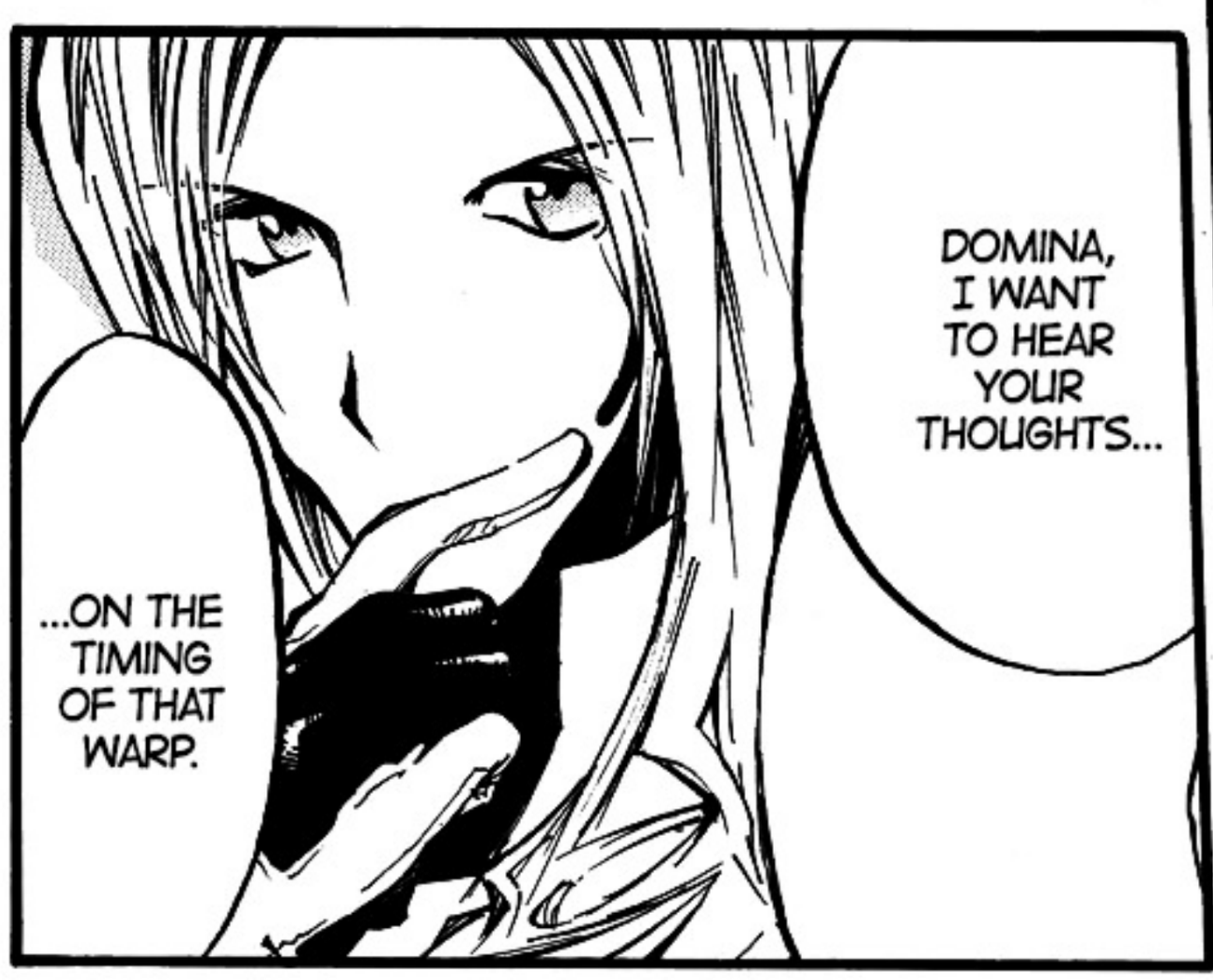
WE CAN'T ATTACK THEM WHILE THEY'RE ***DIRECTLY ABOVE*** THE CITY.

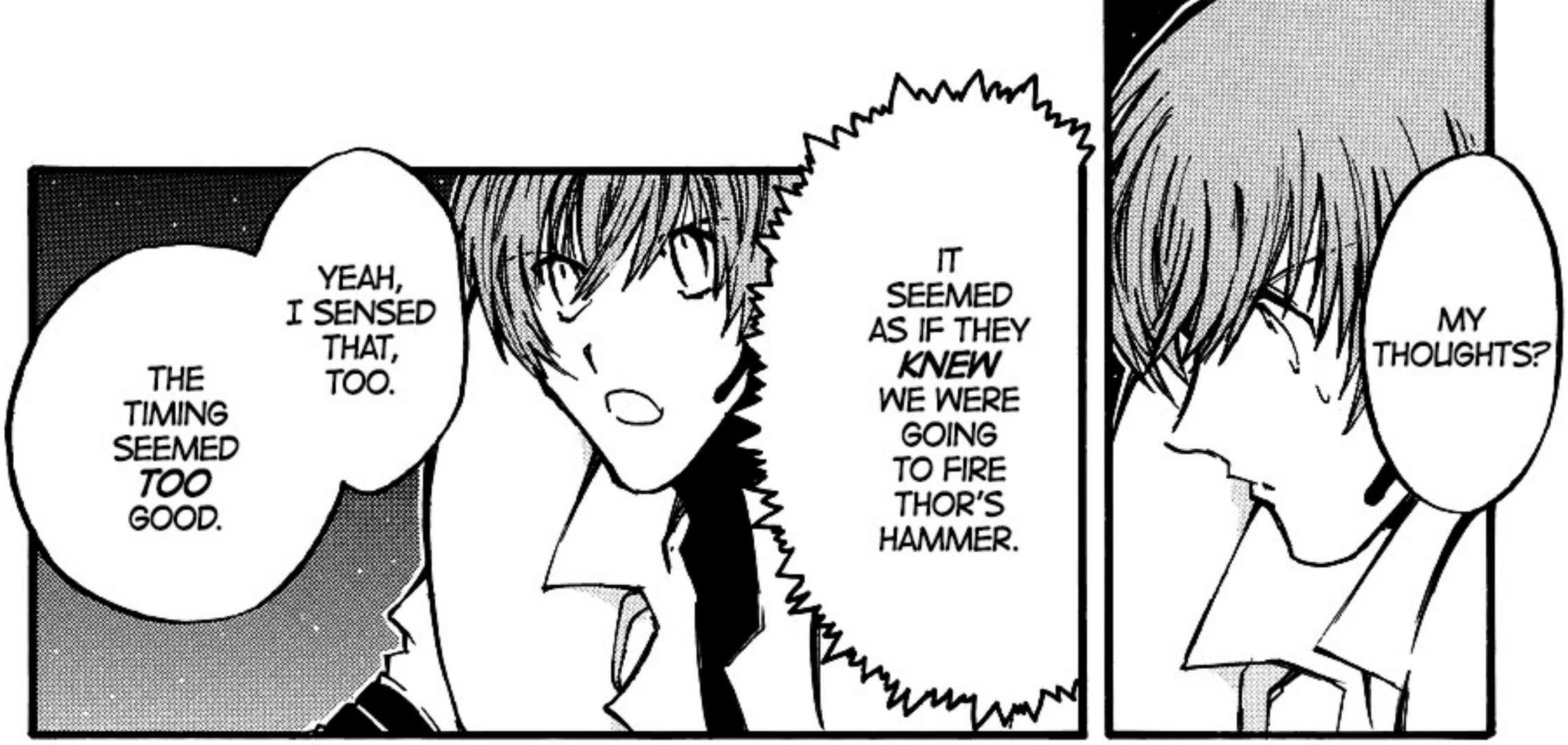
...DOMINA...

LASTLY...

Y-YES!
AH.
DOMINA!

YES! SORRY, SIR. I HEAR YOU NOW.
EVERY-THING OKAY?

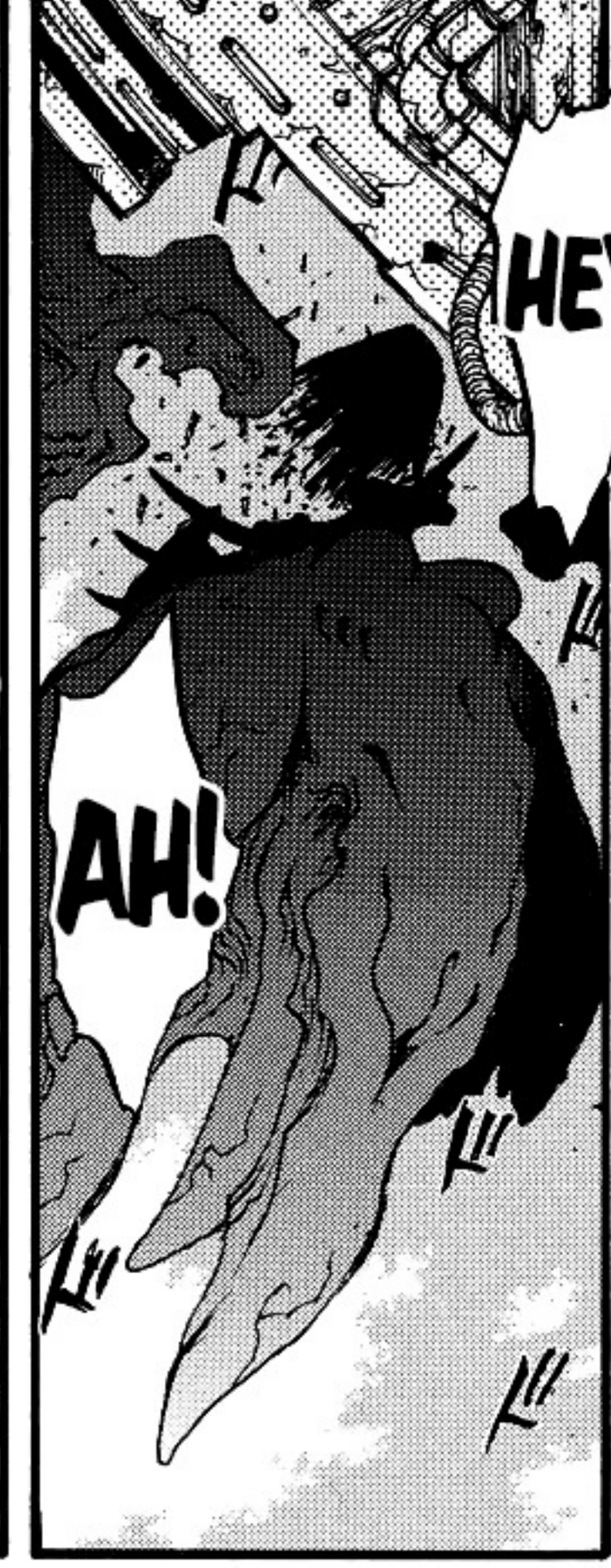

...ON THE TIMING OF THAT WARP.
DOMINA, I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS...


THE TIMING SEEMED TOO GOOD.
YEAH, I SENSED THAT, TOO.
IT SEEMED AS IF THEY KNEW WE WERE GOING TO FIRE THOR'S HAMMER.
MY THOUGHTS?

RUN ANOTHER SCAN IMMEDIATELY.
THEY MAY HAVE HACKED INTO OUR SYSTEMS.

CONTINUE YOUR OBSERVATIONS.
ROGER!
I WILL BE READY WITH ANOTHER OPERATION PLAN IN 600 SECONDS.
THAT VISION THAT SUDDENLY BURST INTO MY MIND...?
WHAT WAS...
...THAT?

GA AA AH!


HEY!
AH!

EIII AAA AH!
AAAAAAAA!
AAAAAH!

THE ARK SUDDENLY APPEARED RIGHT ON TOP OF US...

...AND THEN THERE WAS A HUGE EXPLOSION.

I DON'T KNOW!

I HAVE NO IDEA!

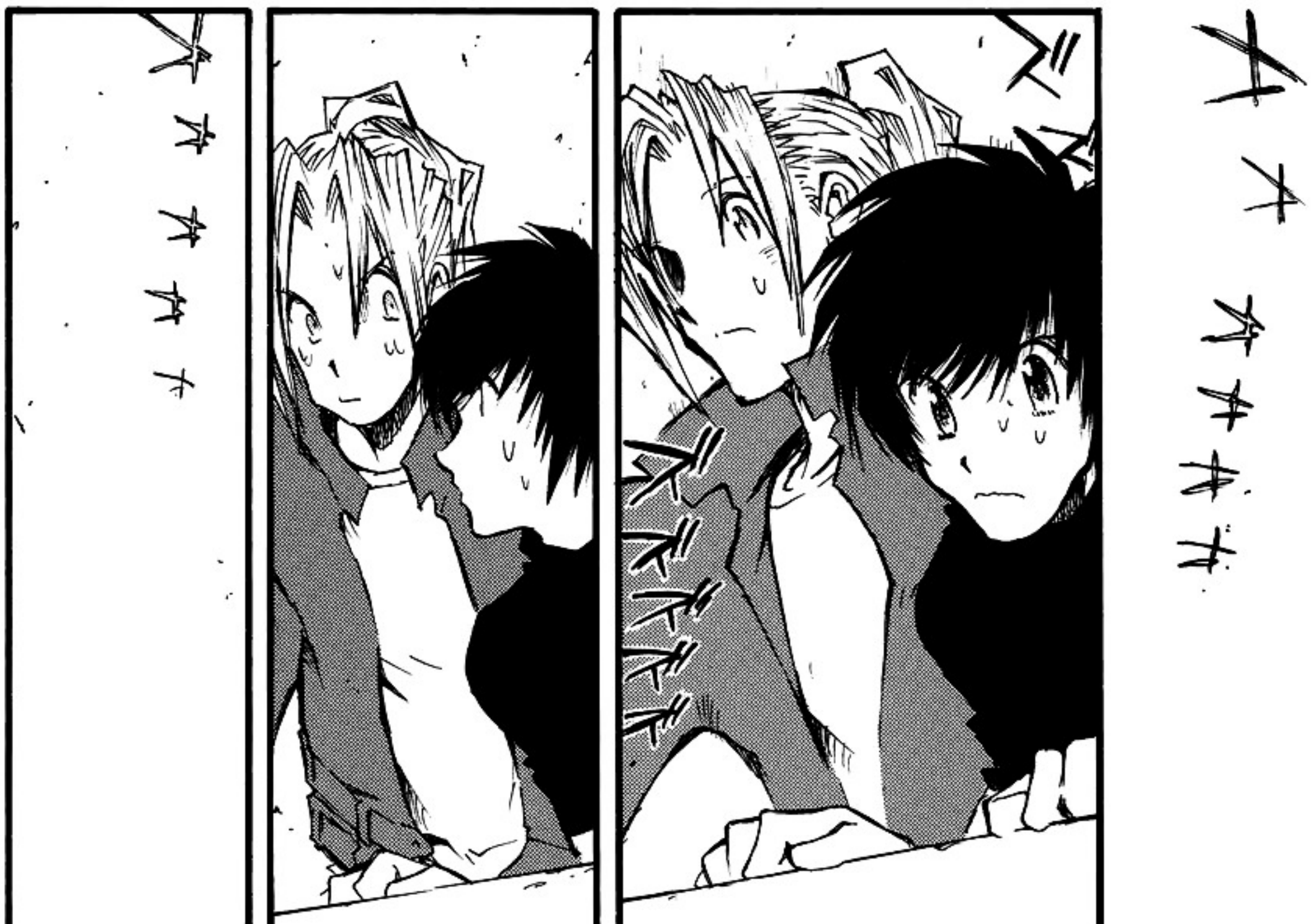
WHAT?! WHAT HAPPENED?!

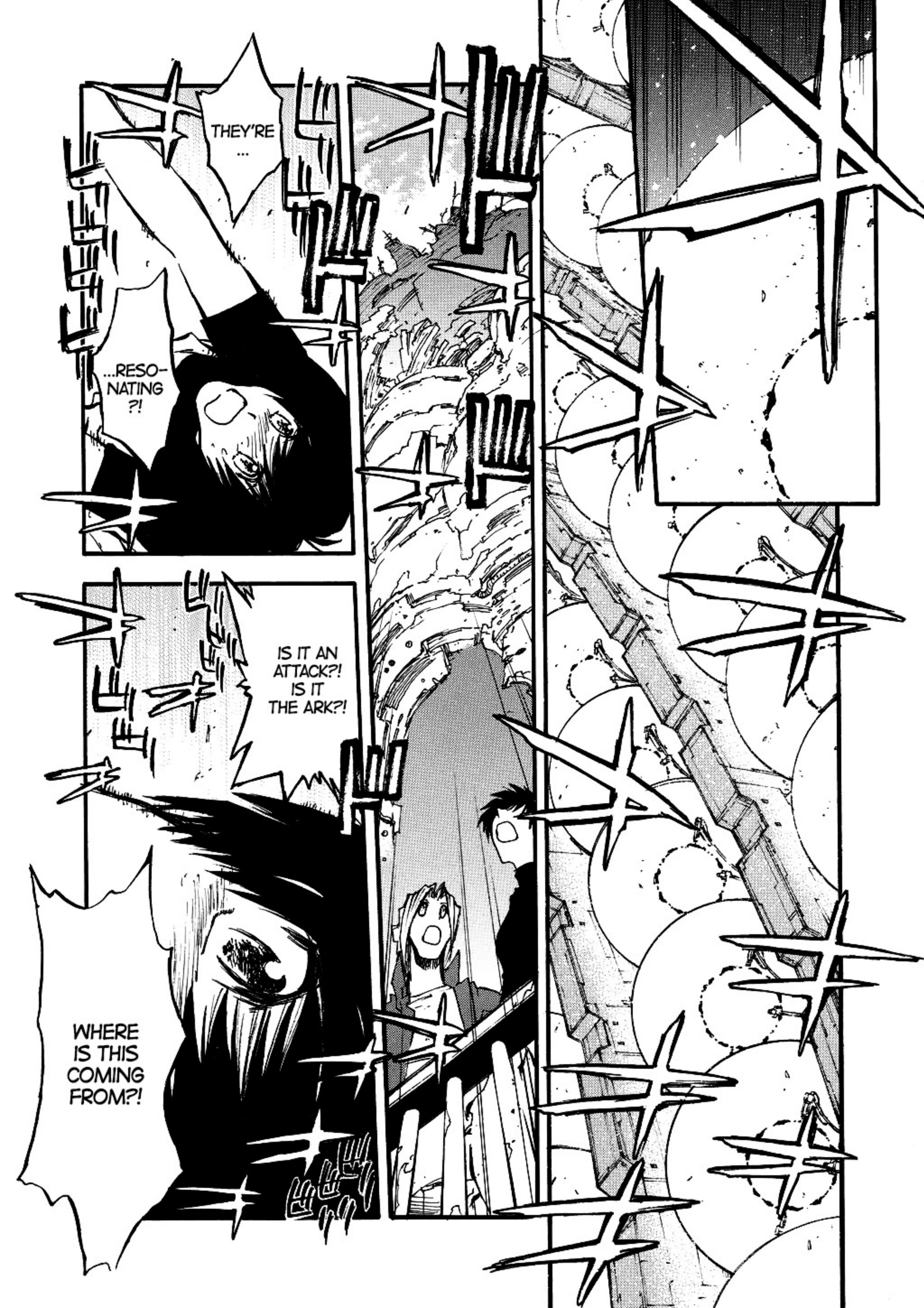
THE CITY IS GOING INTO A PANIC.

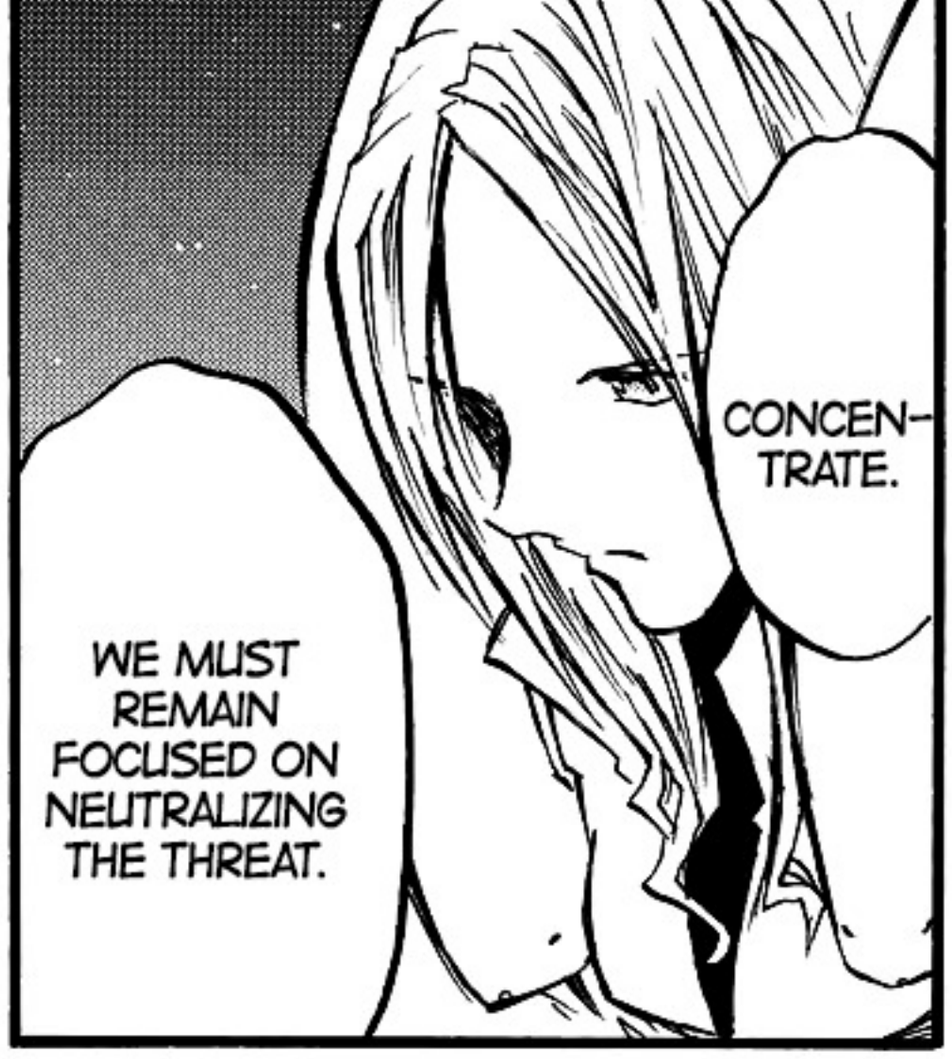
OF COURSE IT IS!

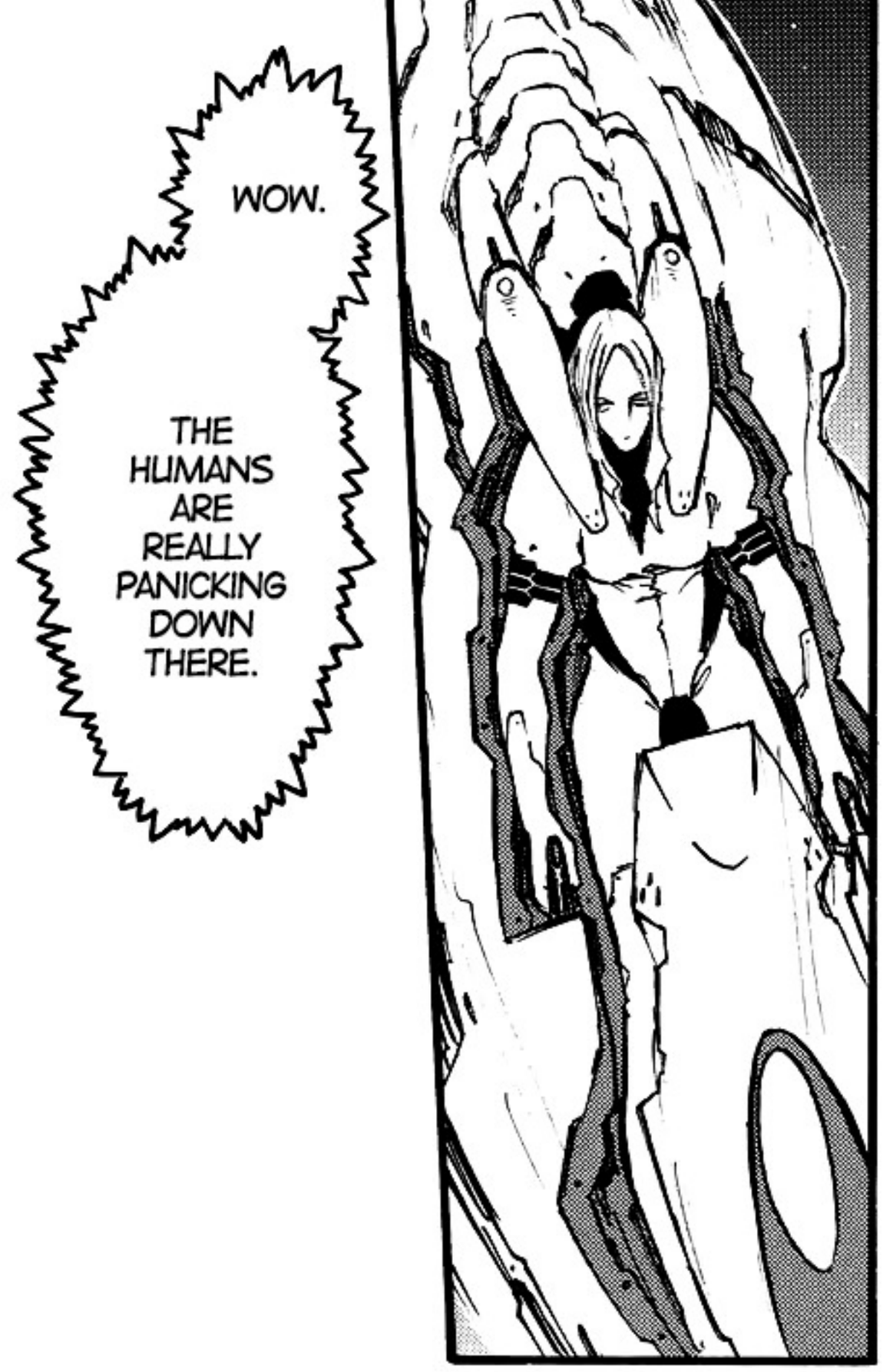
MAYBE, MAYBE NOT.

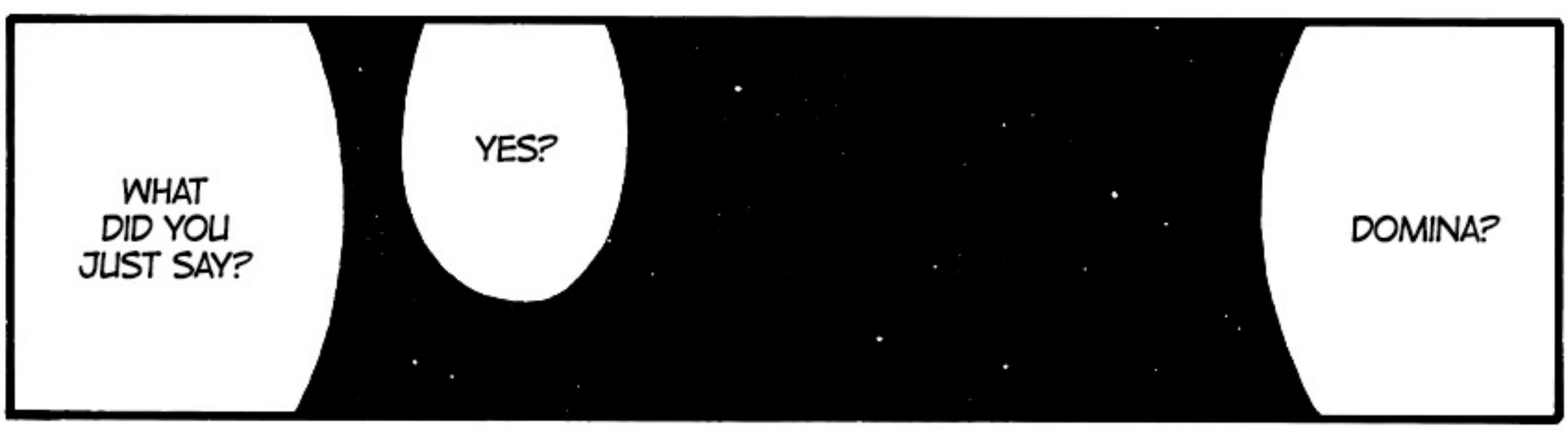
DID THE ARK DO IT?

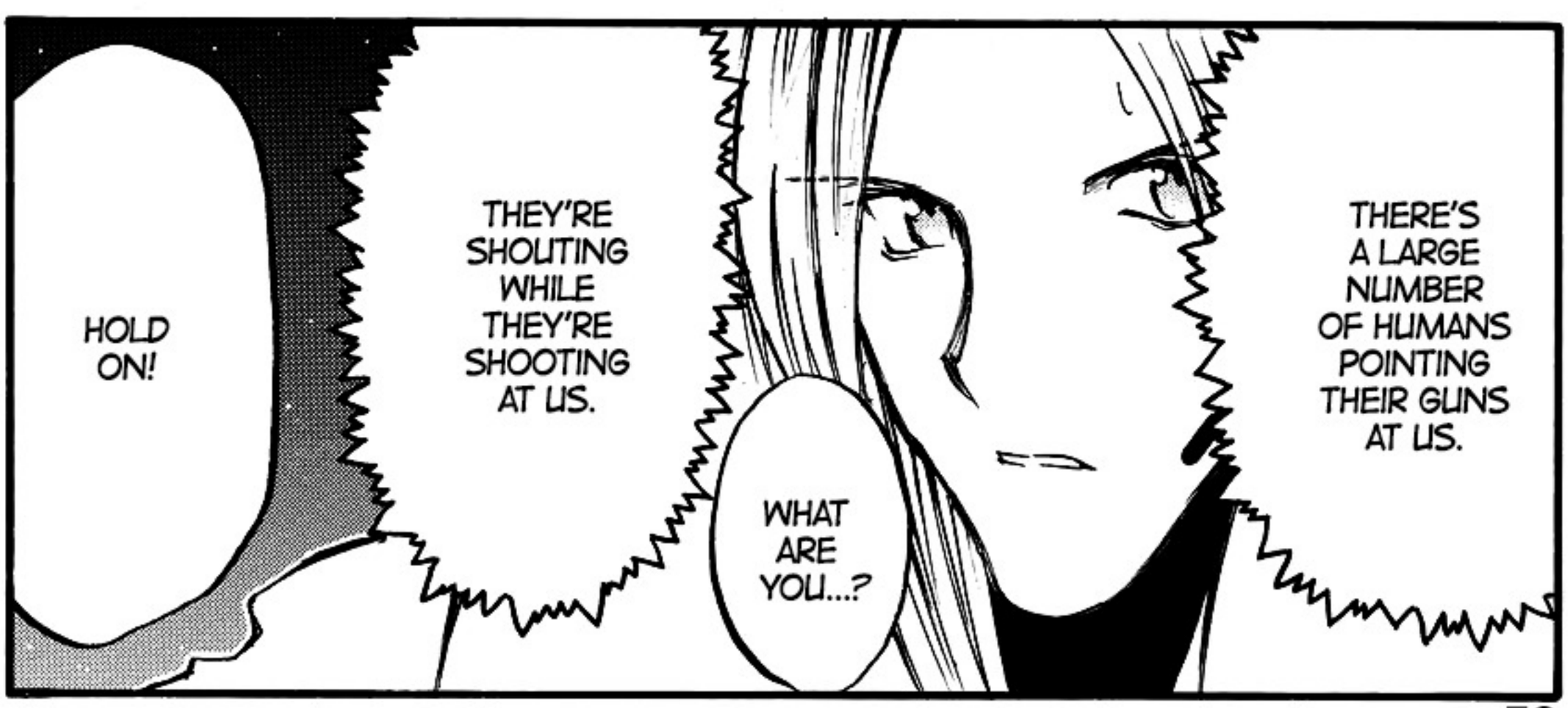


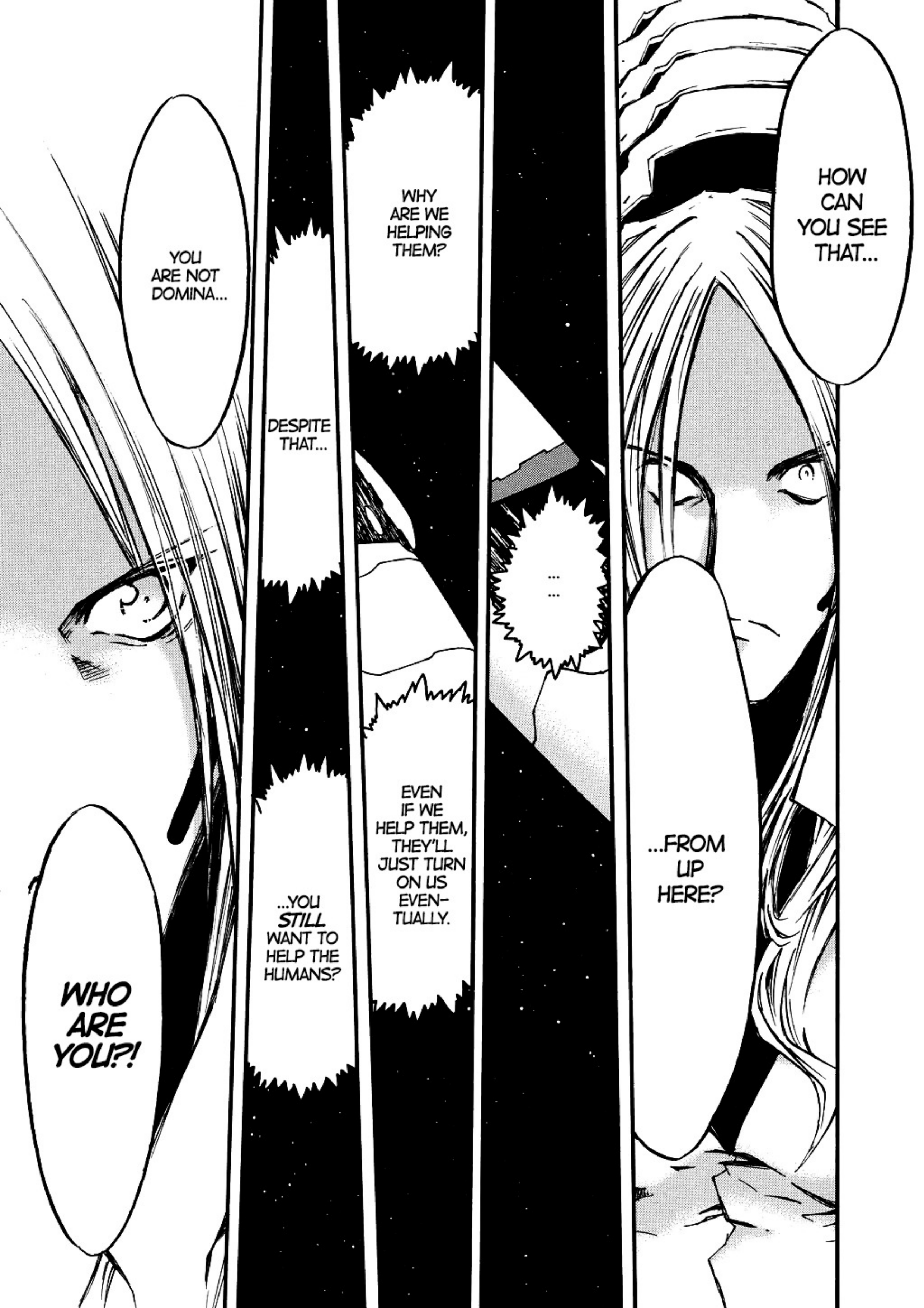

THEY'RE ...
...RESO-NATING ?!
IS IT AN ATTACK?! IS IT THE ARK?!
WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM?!


WE MUST REMAIN FOCUSED ON NEUTRALIZING THE THREAT.
CONCEN-TRATE.


WOW.
THE HUMANS ARE REALLY PANICKING DOWN THERE.


WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
YES?
DOMINA?


HOLD ON!
THEY'RE SHOUTING WHILE THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US.
WHAT ARE YOU...?
THERE'S A LARGE NUMBER OF HUMANS POINTING THEIR GUNS AT US.


HOW CAN YOU SEE THAT...
...FROM UP HERE?
...
WHY ARE WE HELPING THEM?
EVEN IF WE HELP THEM, THEY'LL JUST TURN ON US EVEN-TUALLY.
DESPITE THAT...
...YOU STILL WANT TO HELP THE HUMANS?
YOU ARE NOT DOMINA...
WHO ARE YOU!?!

...UP THROUGH...
...THE STRATO-SPHERE.
ALL THE WAY...
IMPOSSIBLE...
THE FEELER MUST HAVE BEEN STRETCHED SO THIN WE COULD NOT DETECT IT.

THE SHEER POWER OF THIS BEING...
THIS IS INSANITY!

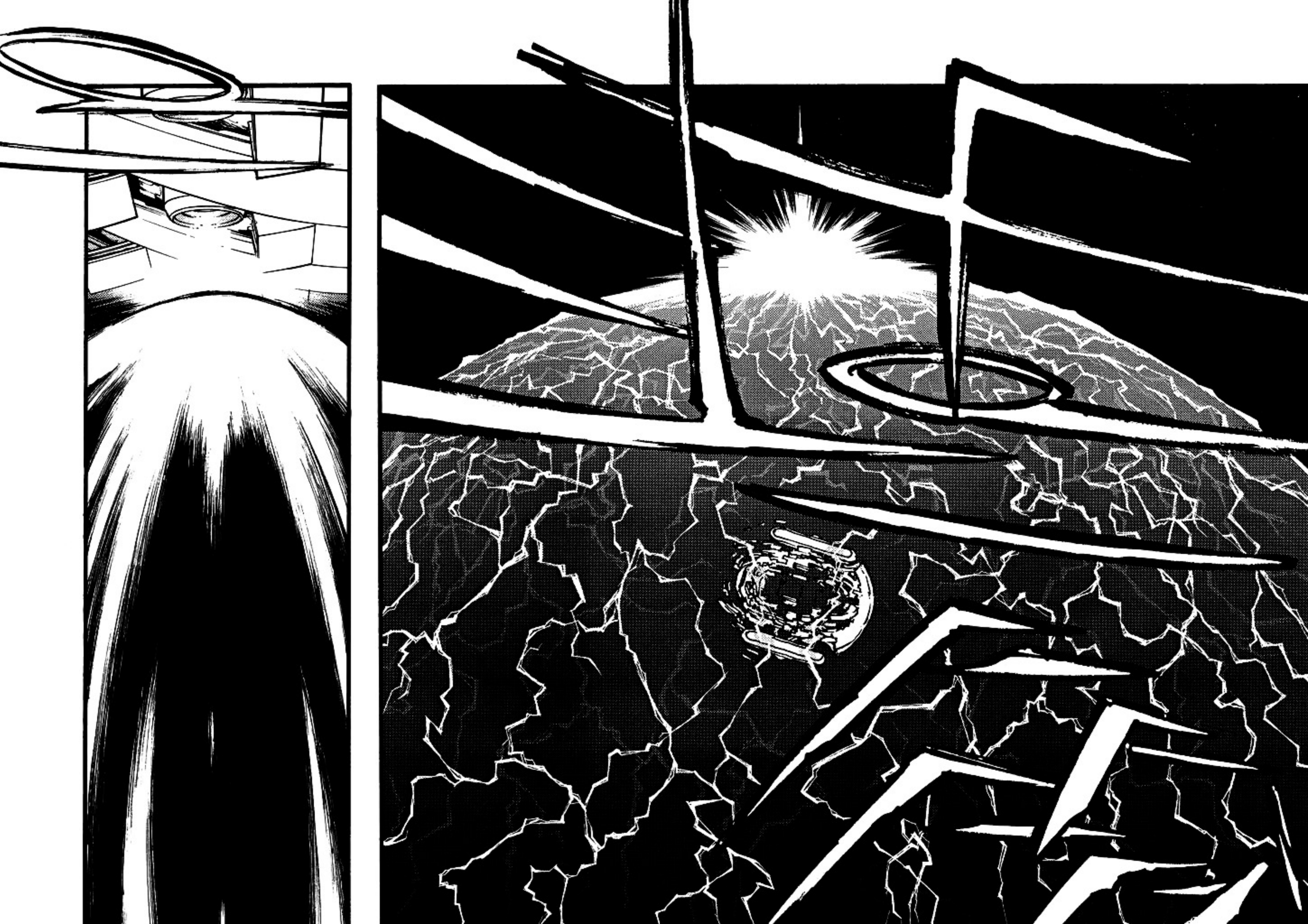
WHAT'S HAPPENING, CHRONICA?!
WHAT?!
CODE RED!
SHE IS ALREADY HALFWAY FUSED WITH THE ENTITY!
HOW?!
DOMINA HAS BEEN ASSIMILATED!
IT HAD ALREADY ENSNARED DOMINA WHEN WERE APPROACHING!
THE SINGLE CONSCIOUS WILL OF THE FUSED ENTITIES IS EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
...?!

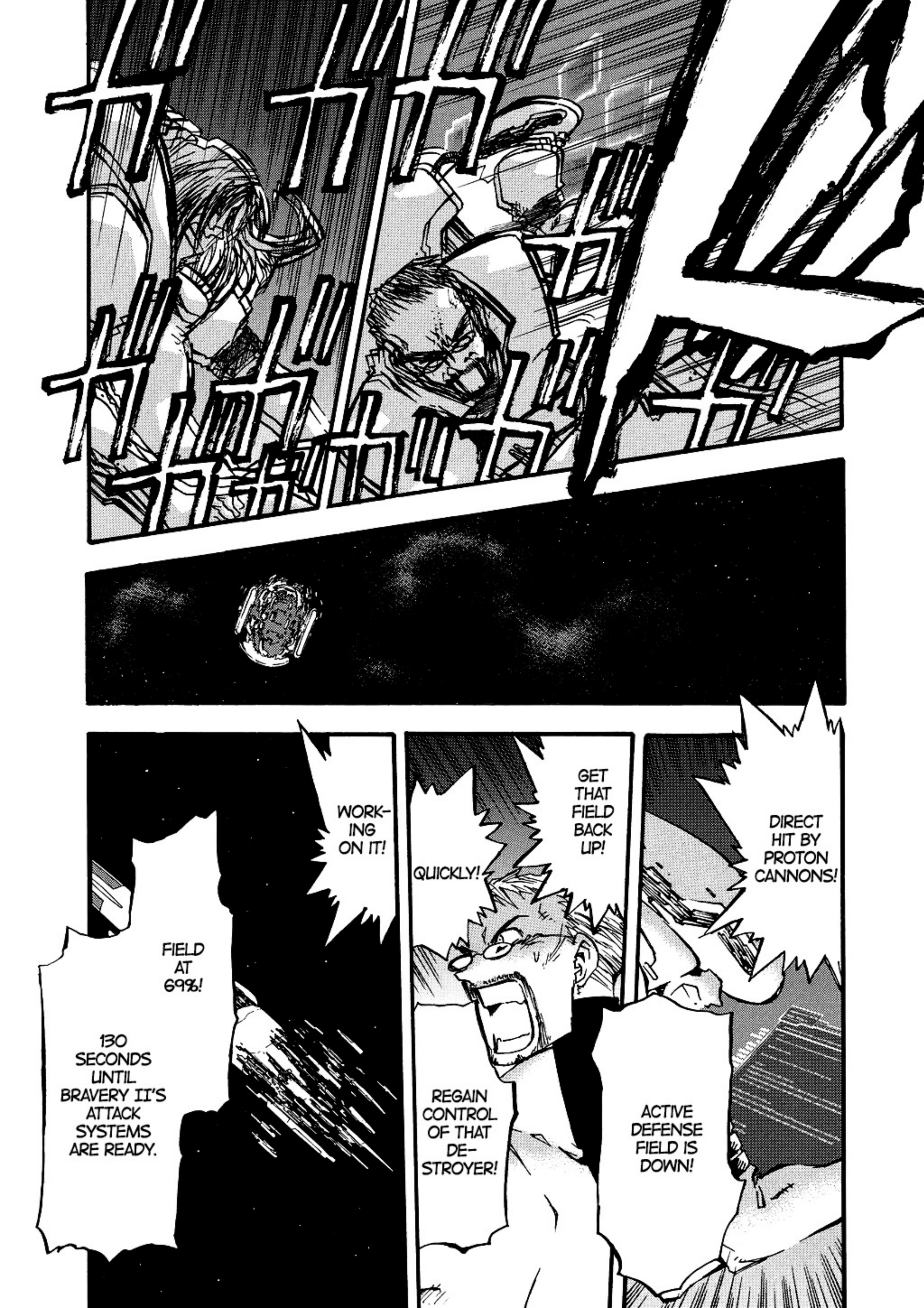
THE ENTITY *ALLOWED* US TO APPROACH TO GATHER ALL THE INFORMATION IT COULD.
THEN WAITED UNTIL DOMINA WAS INTEGRATED INTO OUR COMMAND SYSTEMS.
IT PLANNED TO ACT AT THE *WORST POSSIBLE* TIME FOR US.
NOW THE DESTROYER BRAVERY II HAS FALLEN INTO ENEMY HANDS.

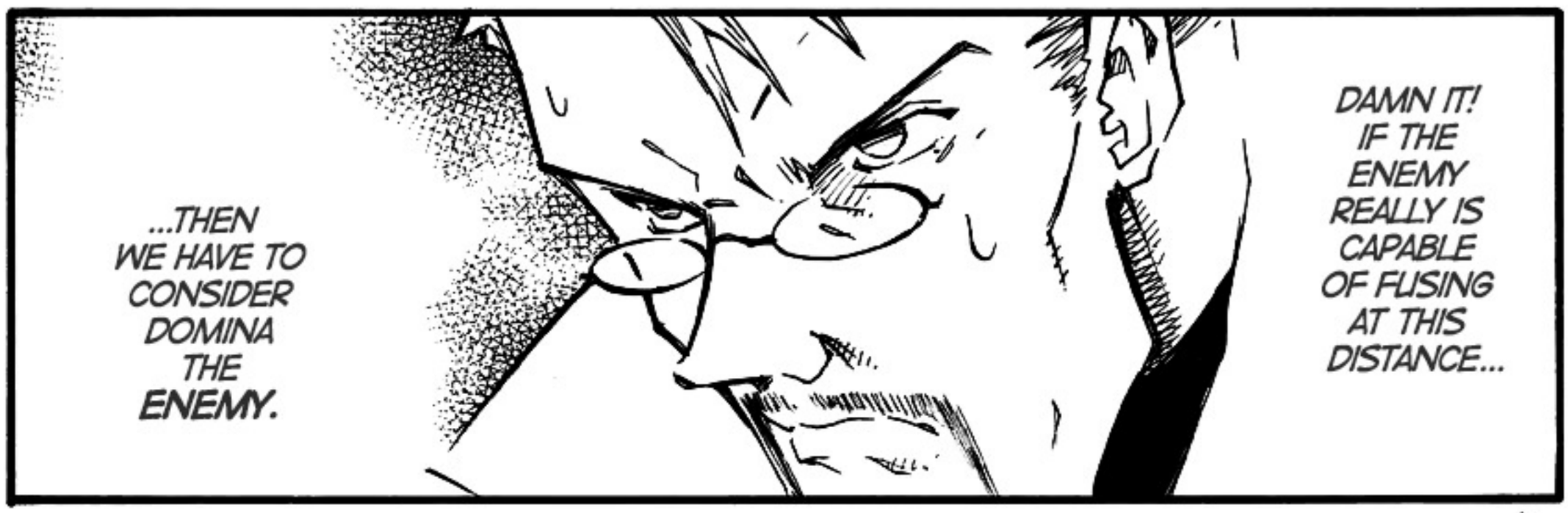
#02. CORROSIVE THUNDER / END

#03. THE INTERCEPTOR
BRAVERY II! BRAVERY II!
THERE'S NO REPLY! BRAVERY II HAS BEEN COMPROMISED!

BRAVERY II HAS OPENED ALL OF ITS STARBOARD CANNON PORTS!
!!
GTUNK
GTUNK
GTUNK
GTUNK
GTUNK
IT'S POWERING UP!
IT'S TARGET-ING...
...THE FLAGSHIP NOMAD!
WE CAN'T-
BRACE FOR ATTACK!
ALL HANDS!




WORK-ING ON IT!
FIELD AT 69%!
130 SECONDS UNTIL BRAVERY II'S ATTACK SYSTEMS ARE READY.
GET THAT FIELD BACK UP!
QUICKLY!
REGAIN CONTROL OF THAT DE-STROYER!
DIRECT HIT BY PROTON CANNONS!
ACTIVE DEFENSE FIELD IS DOWN!


...THEN WE HAVE TO CONSIDER DOMINA THE ENEMY.
DAMN IT! IF THE ENEMY REALLY IS CAPABLE OF FUSING AT THIS DISTANCE...

THE BRAVERY II IS TURNING AROUND!
?!

STOP THE BRAVERY II, NOW!
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO FIRE!
THEY'RE GOING TO USE THE MAIN CANNONS!
CHRONICA!
AND FAST!
ADF AT 82%!

IF WE ALLOW THEM TO FIRE, ***WE'RE DEAD!***

IF WE DISRUPT THEIR ADF, IT'LL TAKE LONGER FOR THEM TO CHARGE THE CANNONS.

DO NOT HESITATE! WE ***CAN'T*** AFFORD TO GO DOWN HERE!

...!!

IT'S POWERING UP AGAIN!

BRAVERY II HAS COMPLETED ITS TURN!

THOSE ENERGY WAVES...!

...

...

IT'S THOR'S HAMMER!!

THE ARK IS OUT OF RANGE AT THAT HEIGHT!
WE NEED THEM TO SETTLE DOWN!
IT IS VERY DANGEROUS TO FIRE STRAIGHT INTO THE AIR.
CITIZENS, I BESEECH YOU.
CITIZENS, I BESEECH YOU.
HUH?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDIN', I AIN'T NO COWARD! GET OFF MY BACK!
PLEASE CEASE IMMEDI-ATELY.
HAH!

EE EK!
AAH!
OW!
GA AH!
FUCK!
OH!
SHIT!

AAAAAAAAAAAHH!

AAAAAAAAAH!

...OTHERWISE THE BULLETS WILL KEEP RAINING BACK DOWN.

THEY NEED TO STOP FIRING...

NO, IT'S NOT.

IS IT A COUNTER-ATTACK?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IT'S STRANGE.

IT'S A LITTLE *TOO* QUIET CONSIDERING THEIR GENERAL.

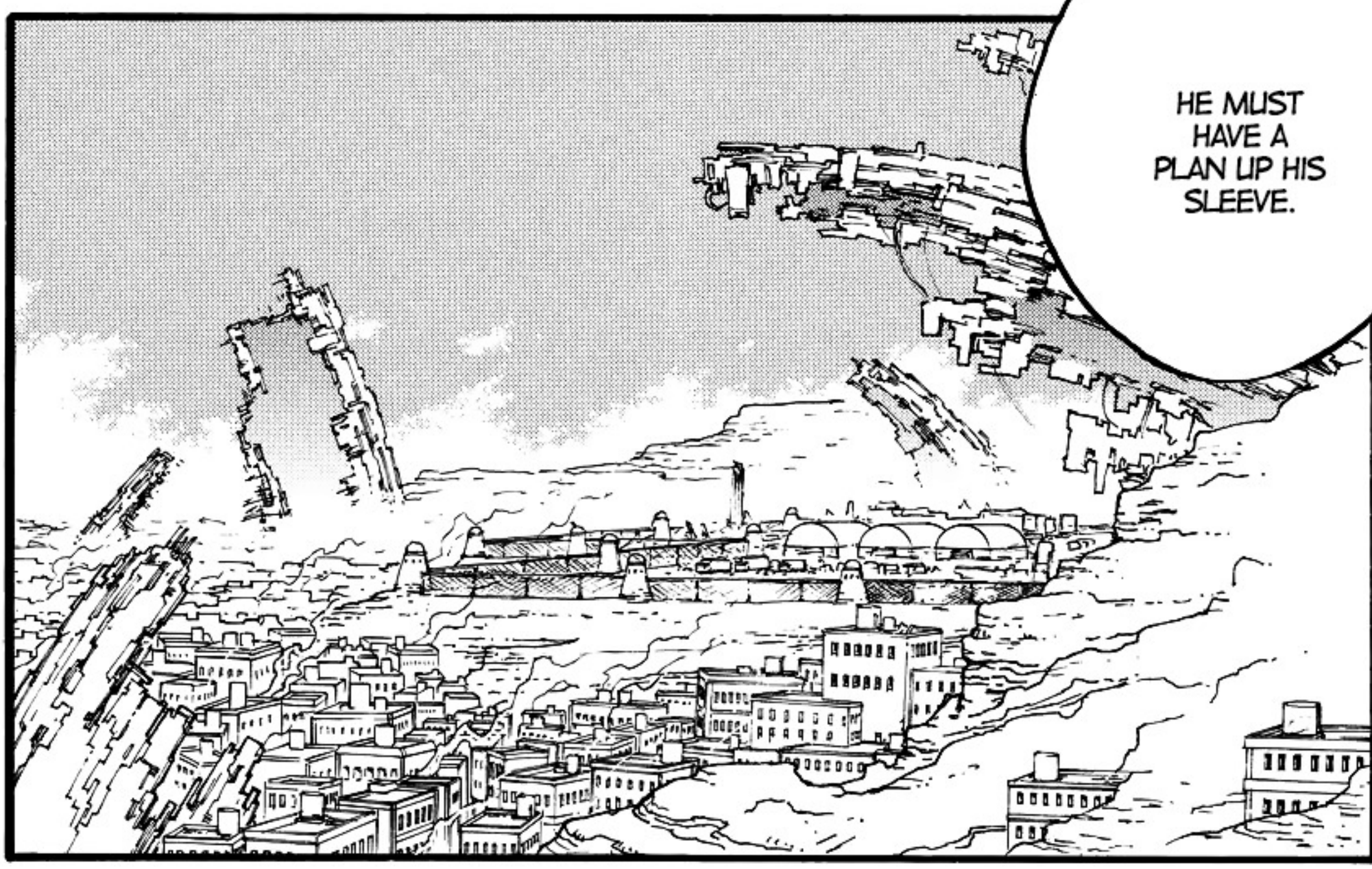
AT LEAST THE PROS KNOW HOW TO DO IT.

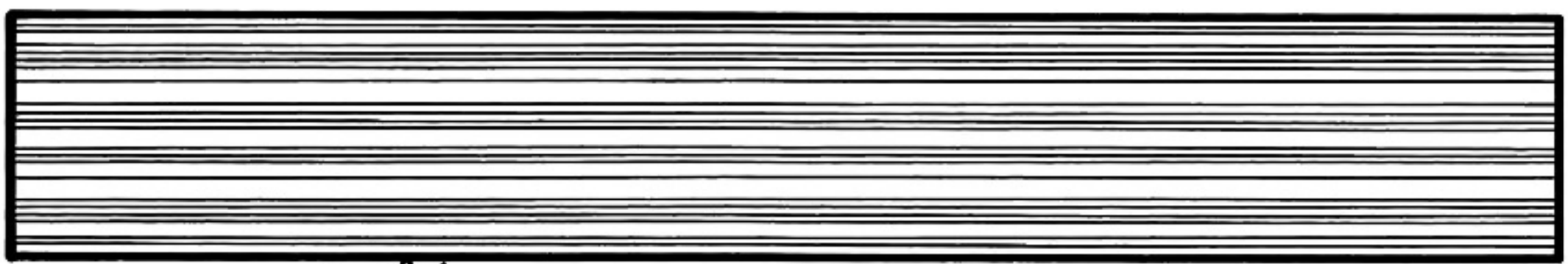
THEY'RE QUIET.

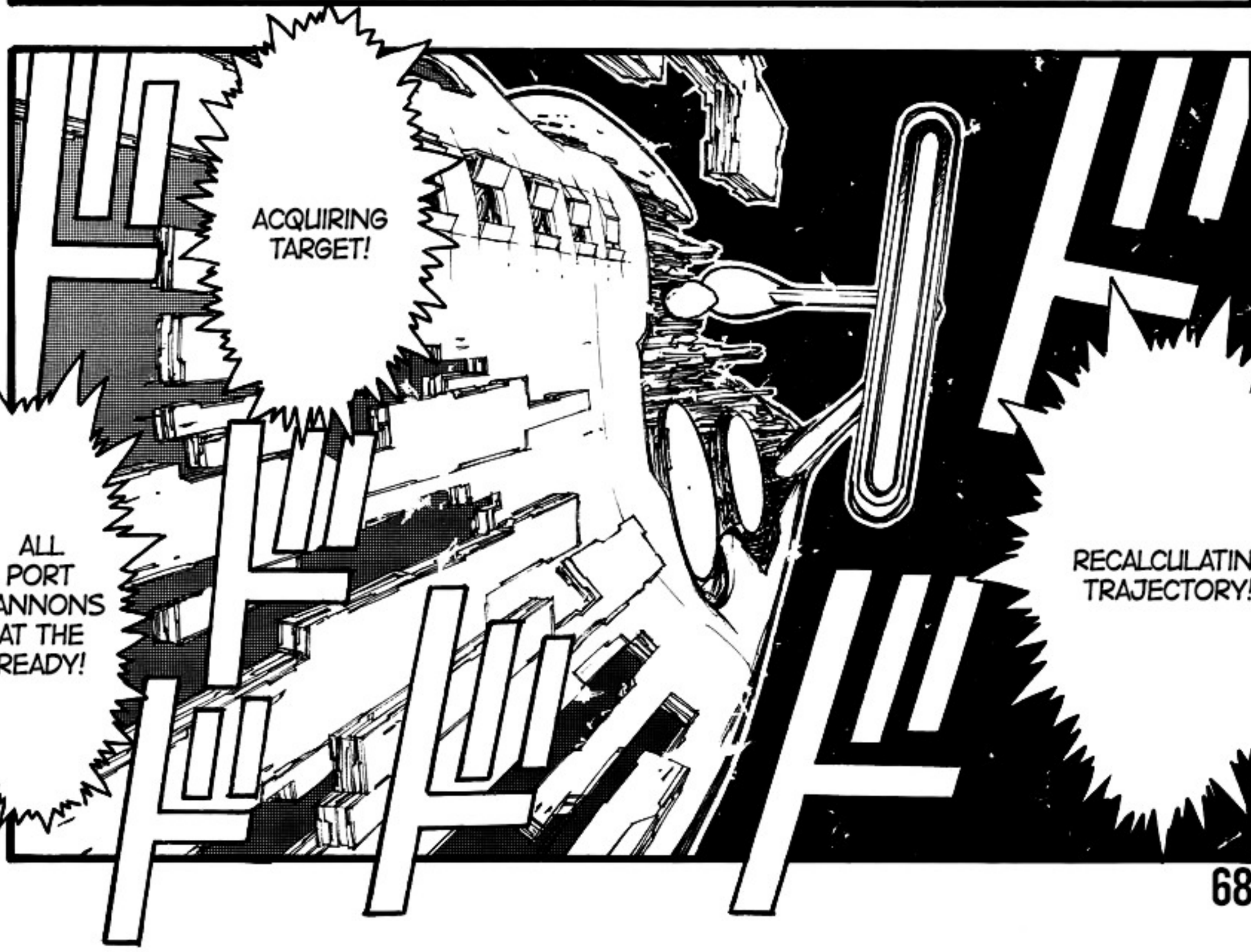
WHAT ARE THE FEDERAL TROOPS DOING?

...
...

I SEE.


HE MUST HAVE A PLAN UP HIS SLEEVE.




ACQUIRING TARGET!
ALL PORT CANNONS AT THE READY!
RECALCULATING TRAJECTORY!

WE CAN NOT ALLOW THAT DESTROYER TO FIRE!

IF WE'RE HIT BY THOR'S HAMMER, THIS ENTIRE SHIP, ALONG WITH US IN IT, WILL BE COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED!

LISTEN UP!

DO NOT FALTER CHRON-ICA!

CHARGING PROTON CANNONS, DOUBLE TIME!

THAT WILL MOMENTARILY PREVENT ITS CANNONS FROM CHARGING, GIVING US TIME TO TAKE BACK BRAVERY II. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY!

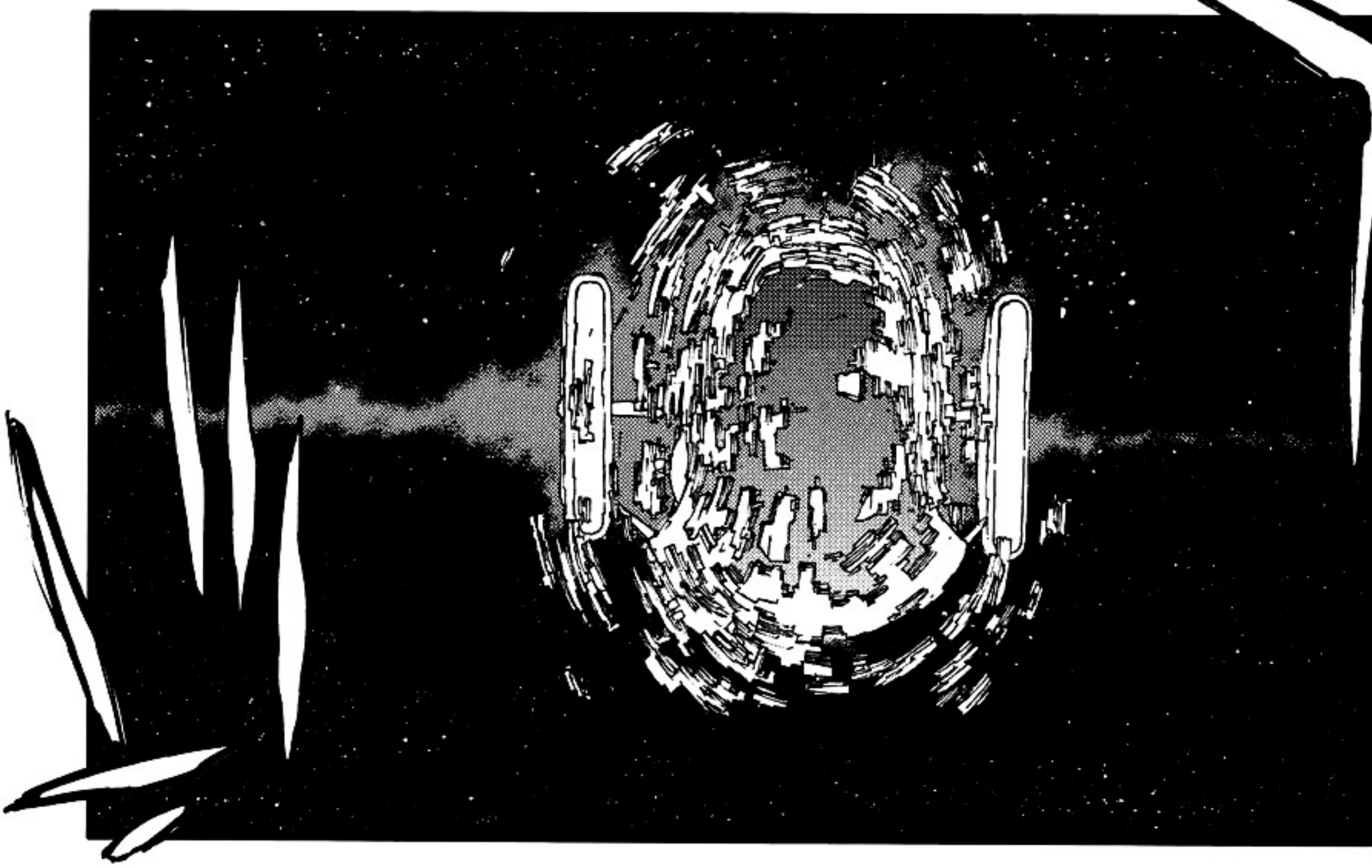
A SMALL BUT PRECISE SHOT WILL DISRUPT ITS ADF.

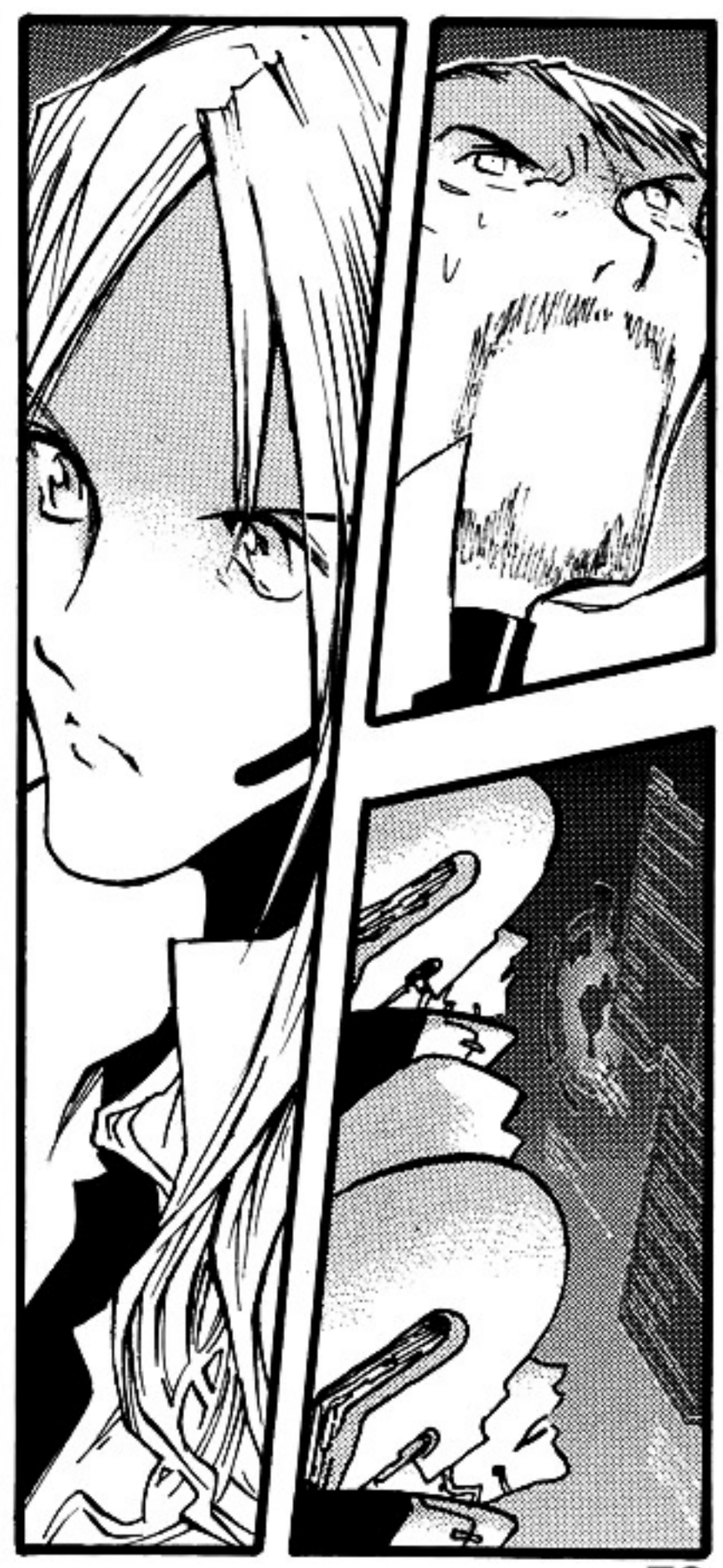
YOU KNOW THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE.

BUT...

...WHAT IF THE ADF CAN'T WITHSTAND MY ATTACK?

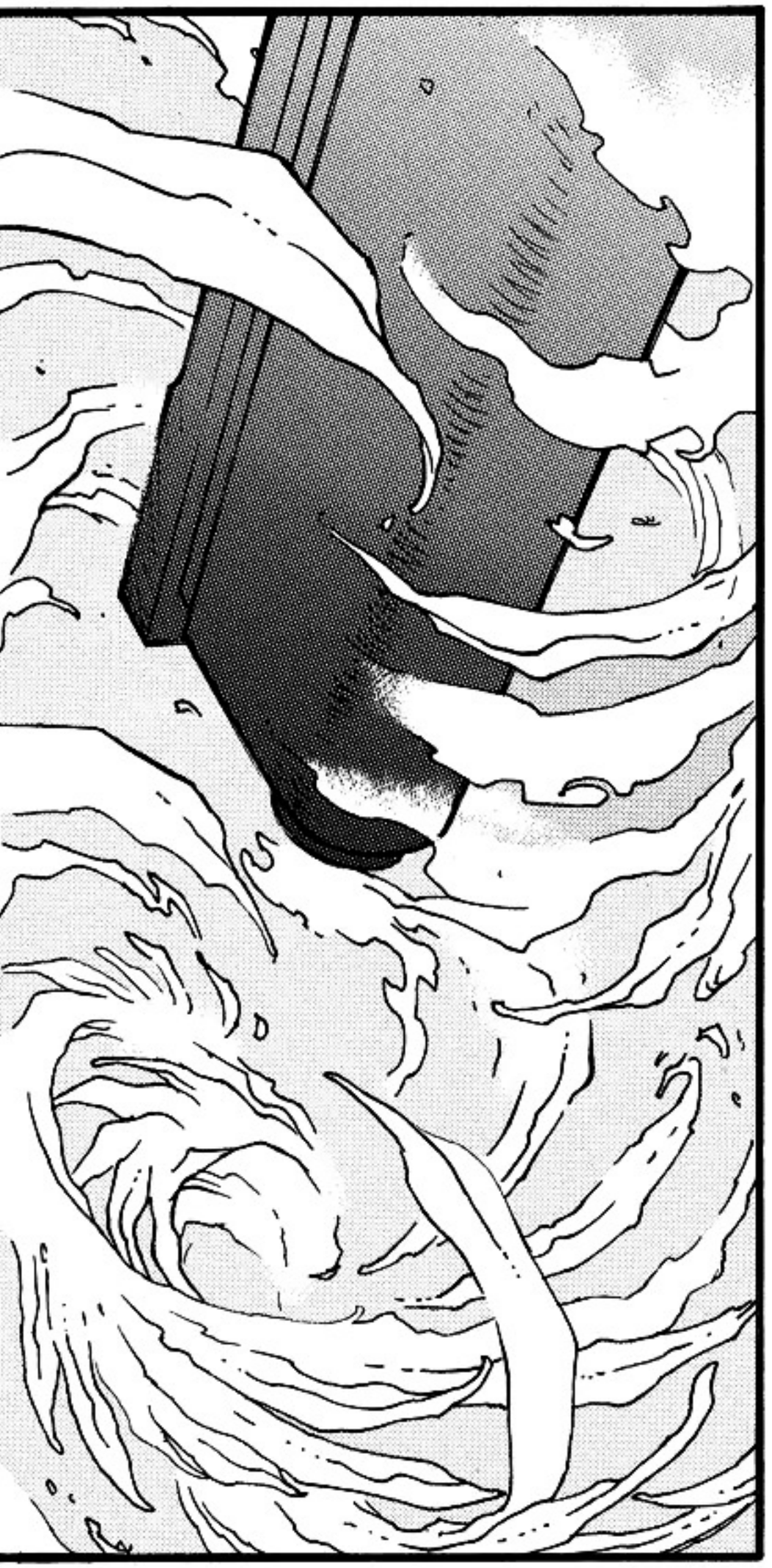
DOMINA!

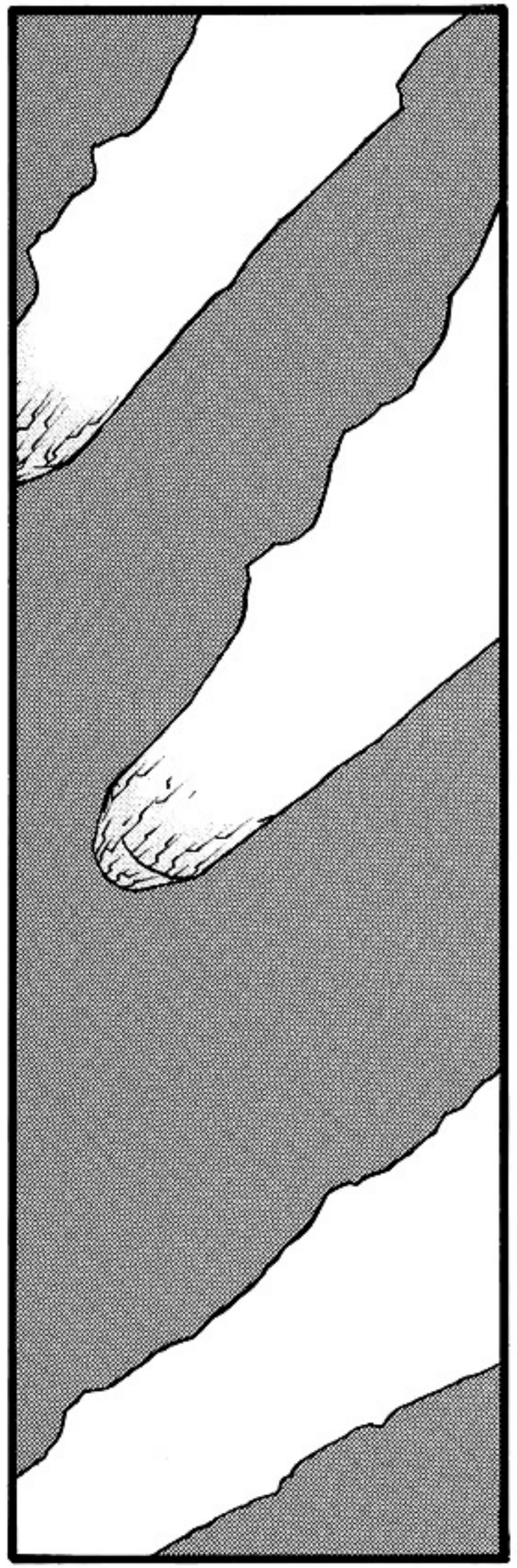


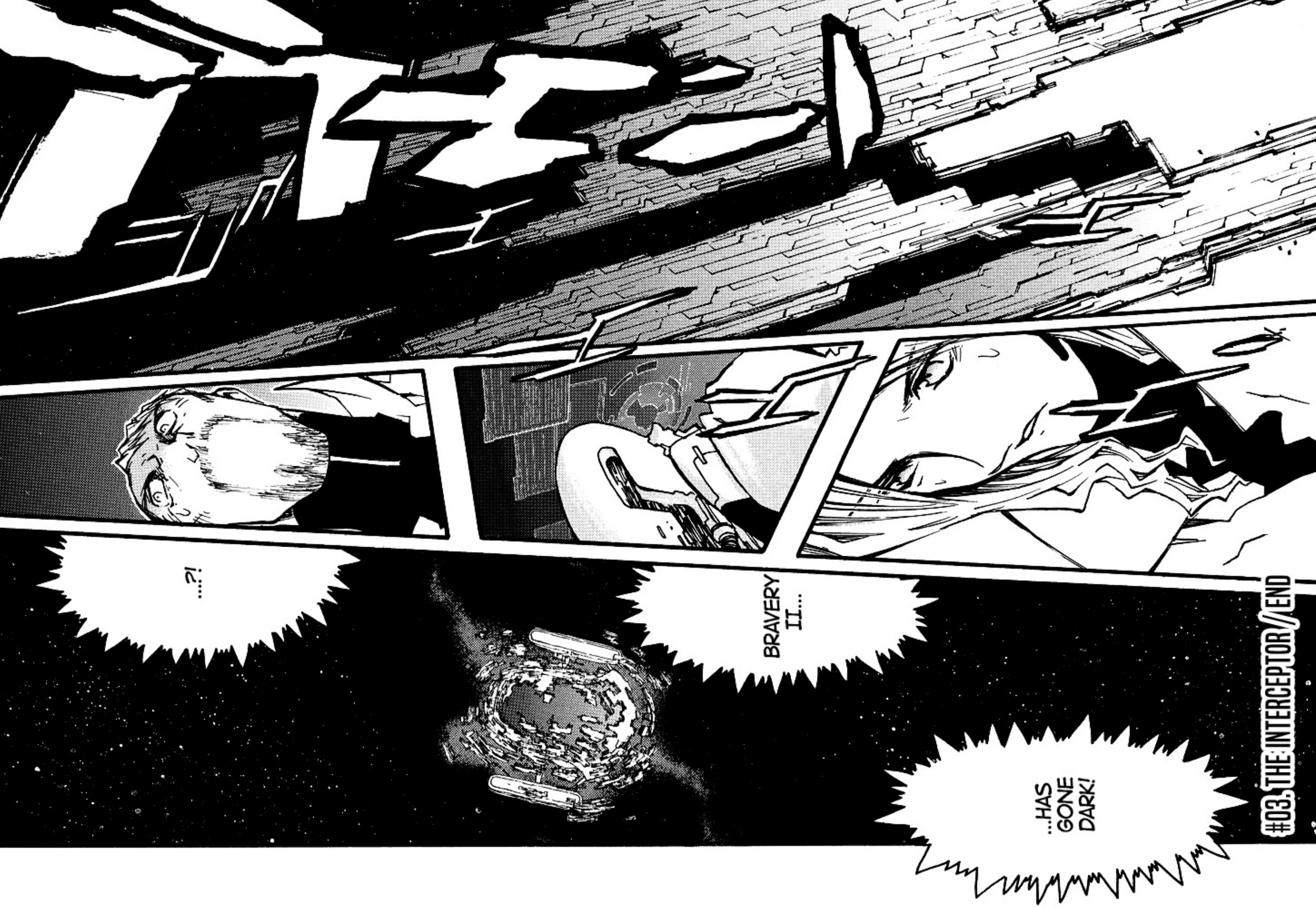


BRAVERY II...
ATTEN-TION!

IT'S UNPRO-TECTED!
...HAS LOWERED ITS ADF!
...!
THOR'S HAMMER IS CHARGING WITH 170% EFFI-CIENCY!
...
...
OH NO.
IT CAN'T BE...
ADF!
IT WILL BE ABLE TO FIRE IN 20 SECONDS!
THEY ARE...
OUR PROTON CANNONS WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
FULL POWER, NOW!






...?!
BRAVERY II...
...HAS GONE DARK!
#03. THE INTERCEPTOR // END

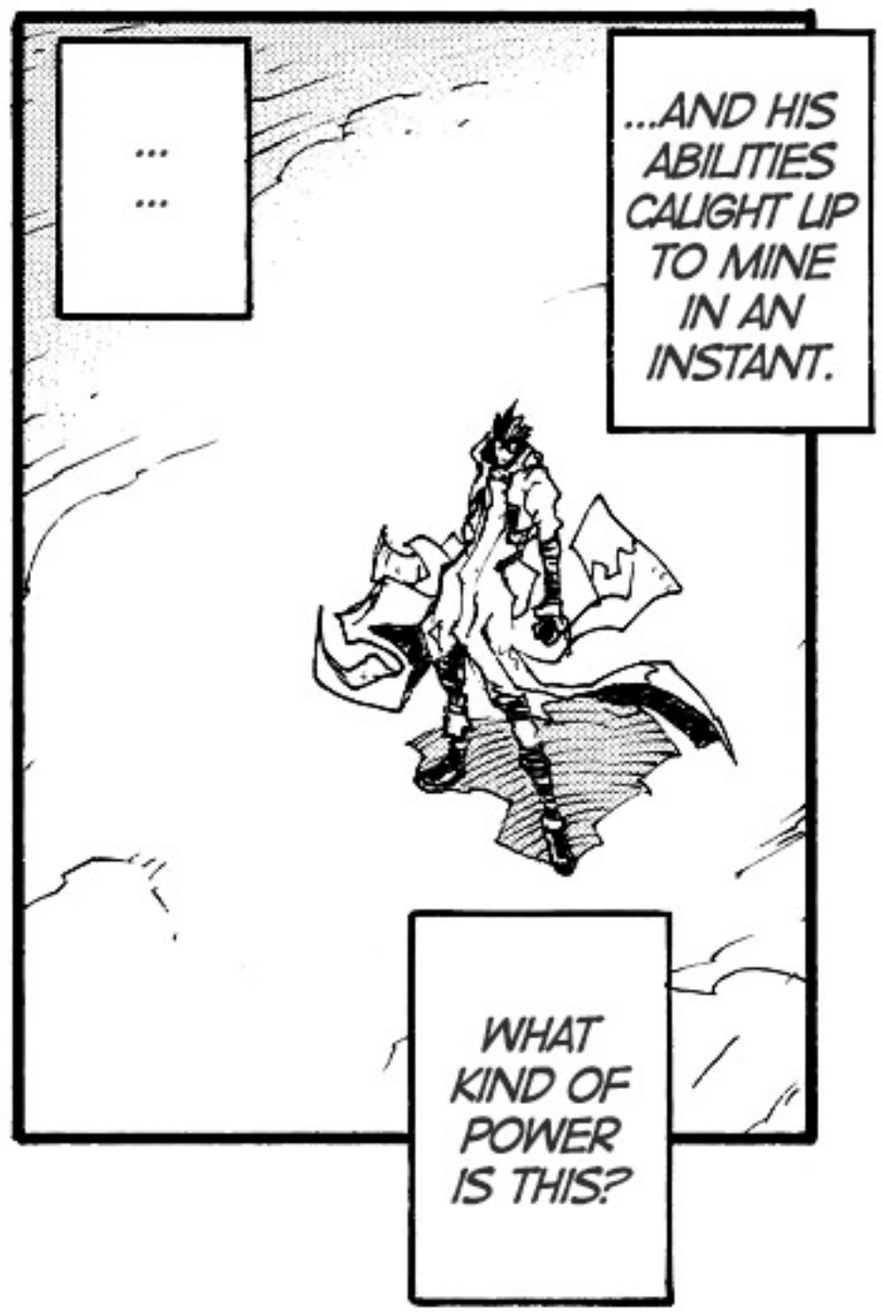
#04. THE GUNSLINGER

WHAT DID YOU JUST DO...
...VASH?

IT'S A SECRET.
I'LL TELL YOU *IF* YOU STOP THIS CHILDISH CRUSADE.

YOU'RE JUST STANDING THERE WITH YOUR BLACK HAIR.

YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO UNDER-STAND.



MA'AM...
YEAH...
IT BECAME EERILY QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN.
IT'S...

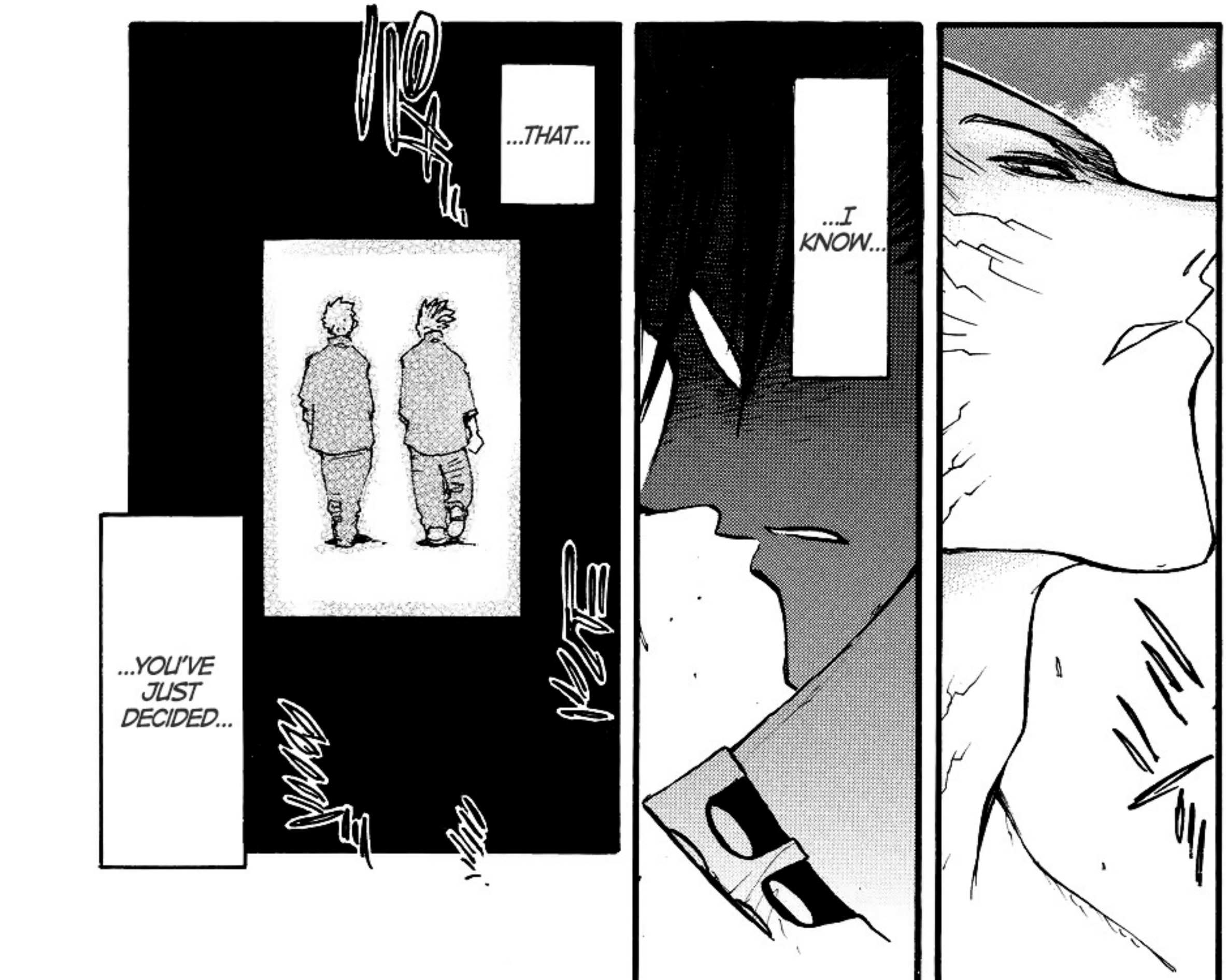
...EVERYONE IS WAITING...
...IT'S ALMOST AS IF...

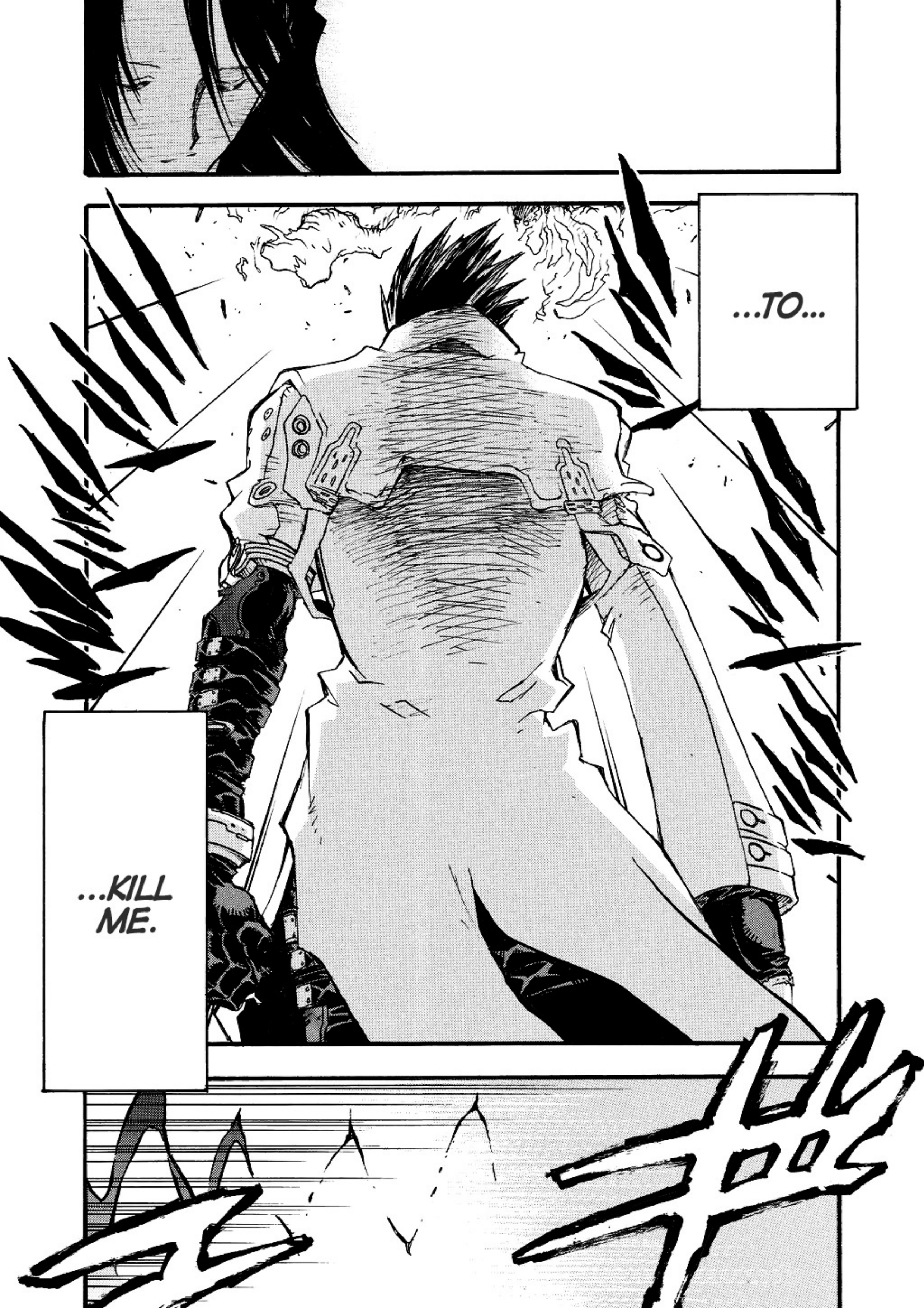
...WITH BATED BREATH.

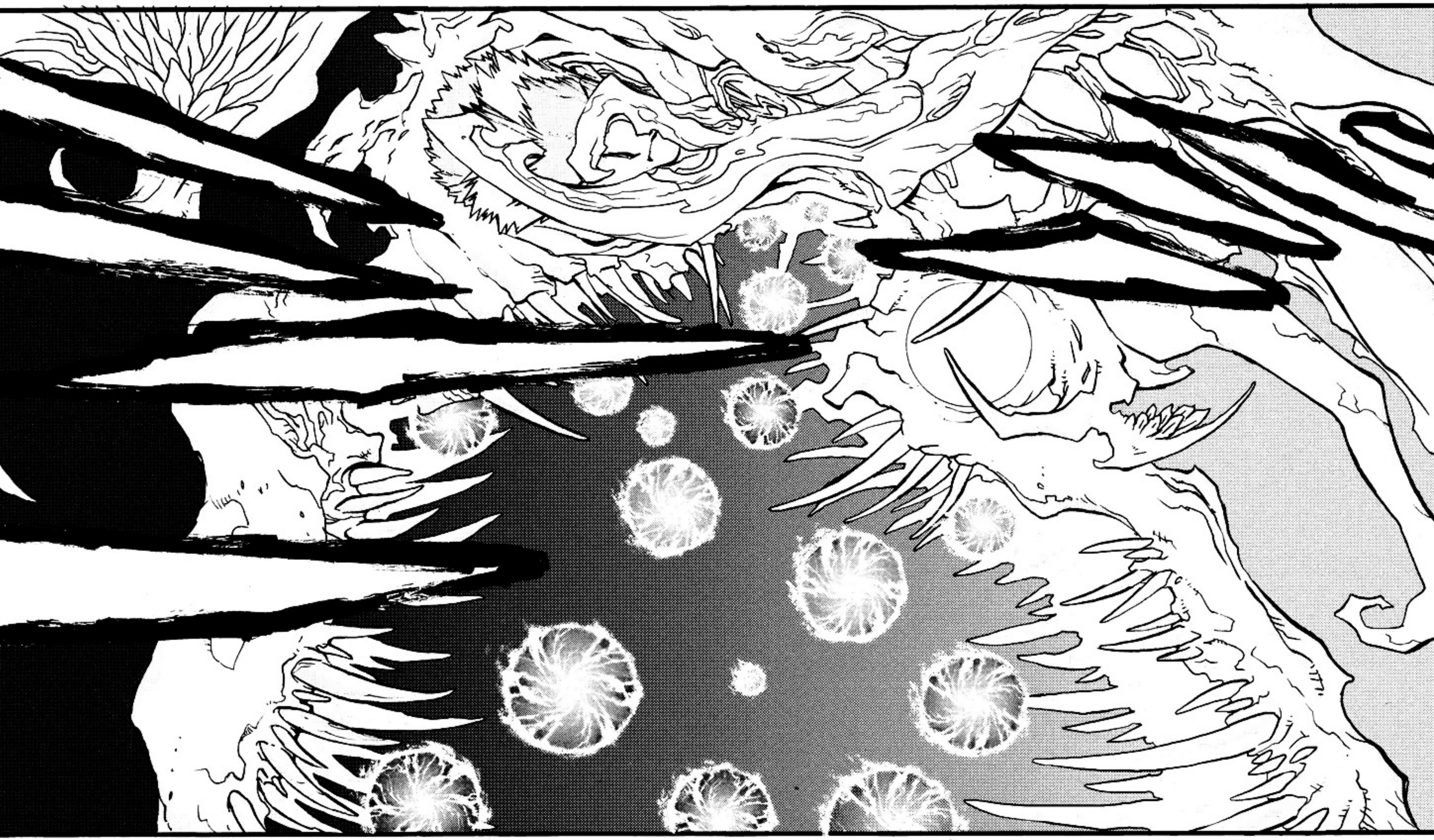
...

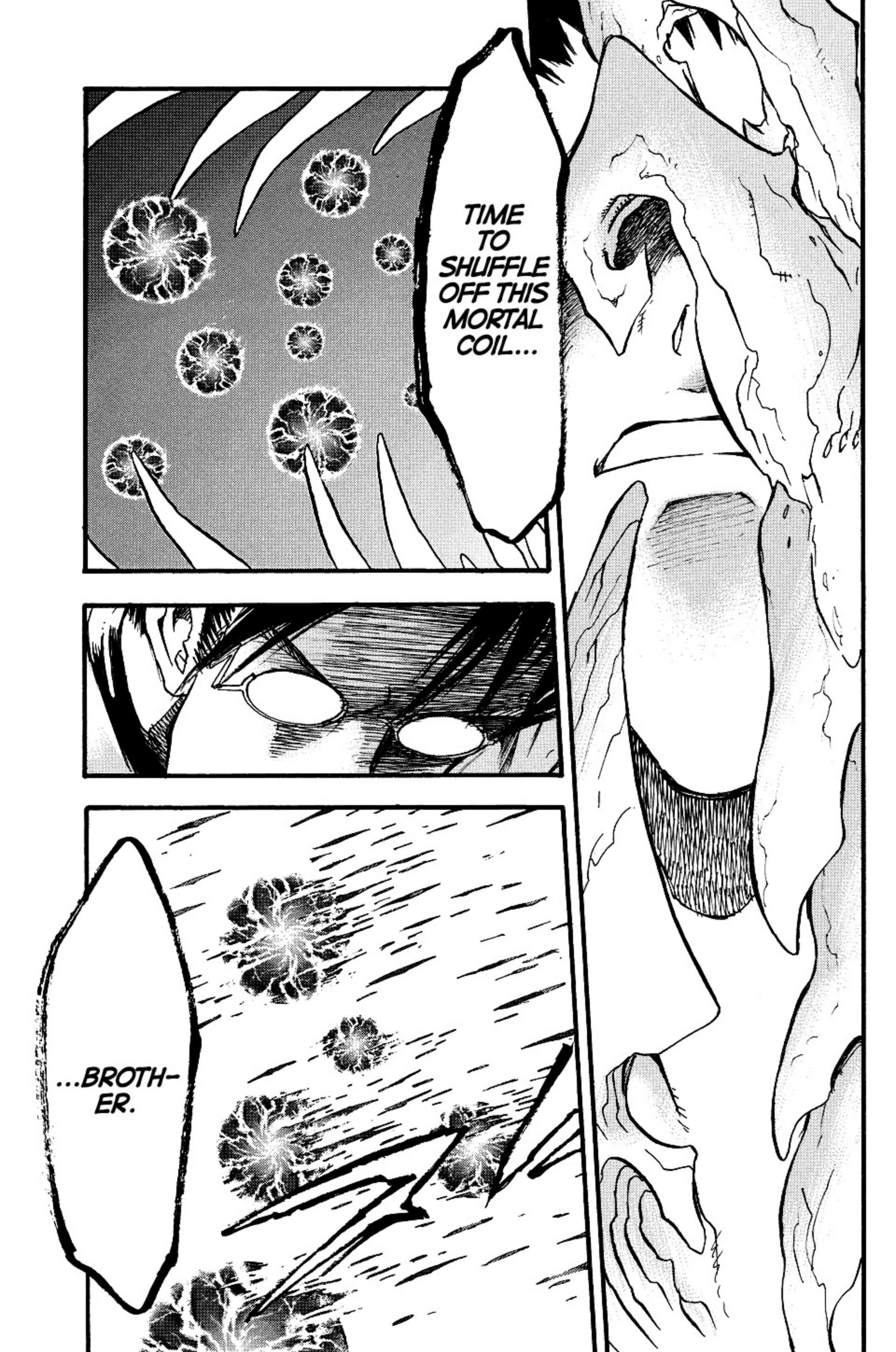
...

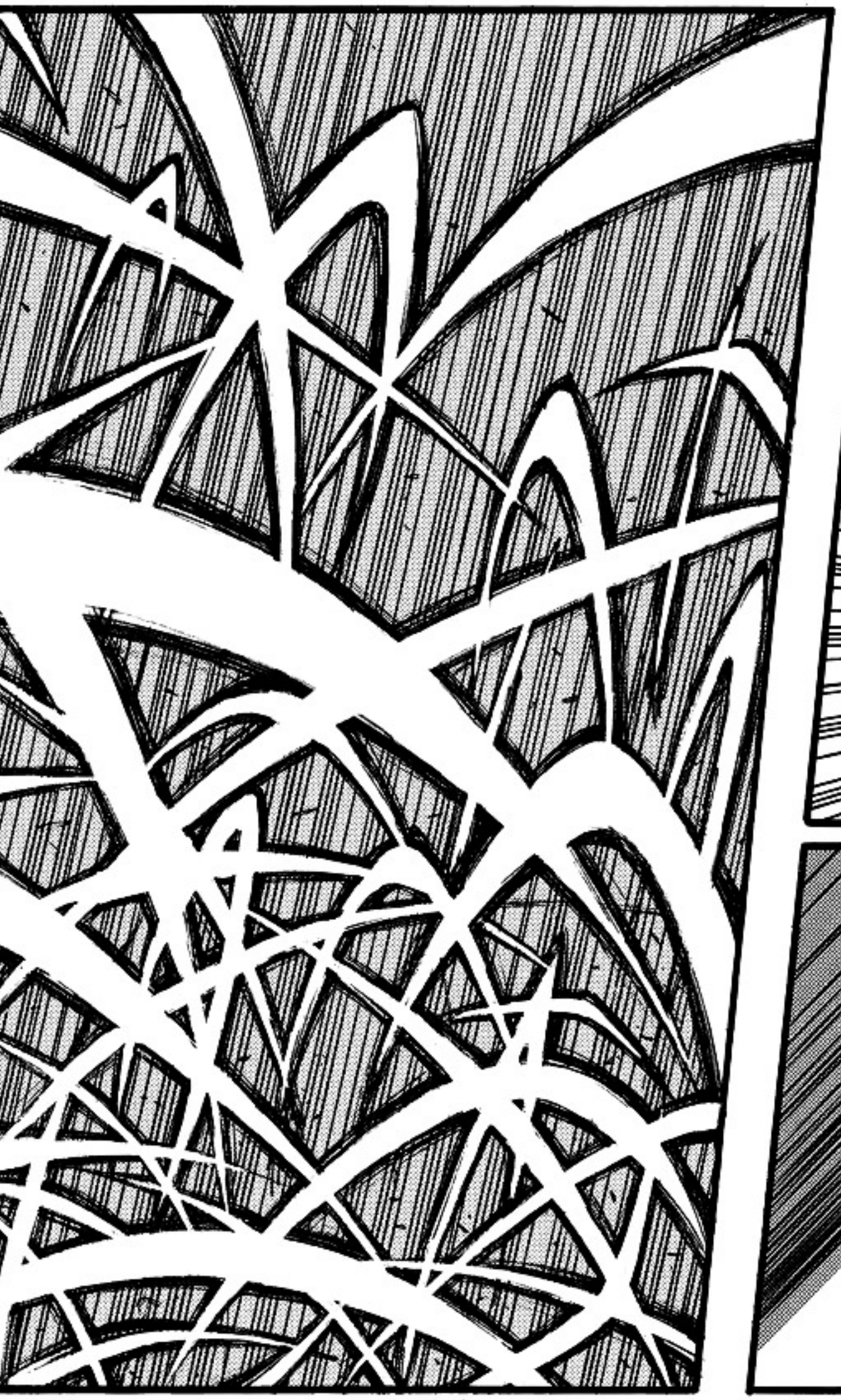
KNIVES...

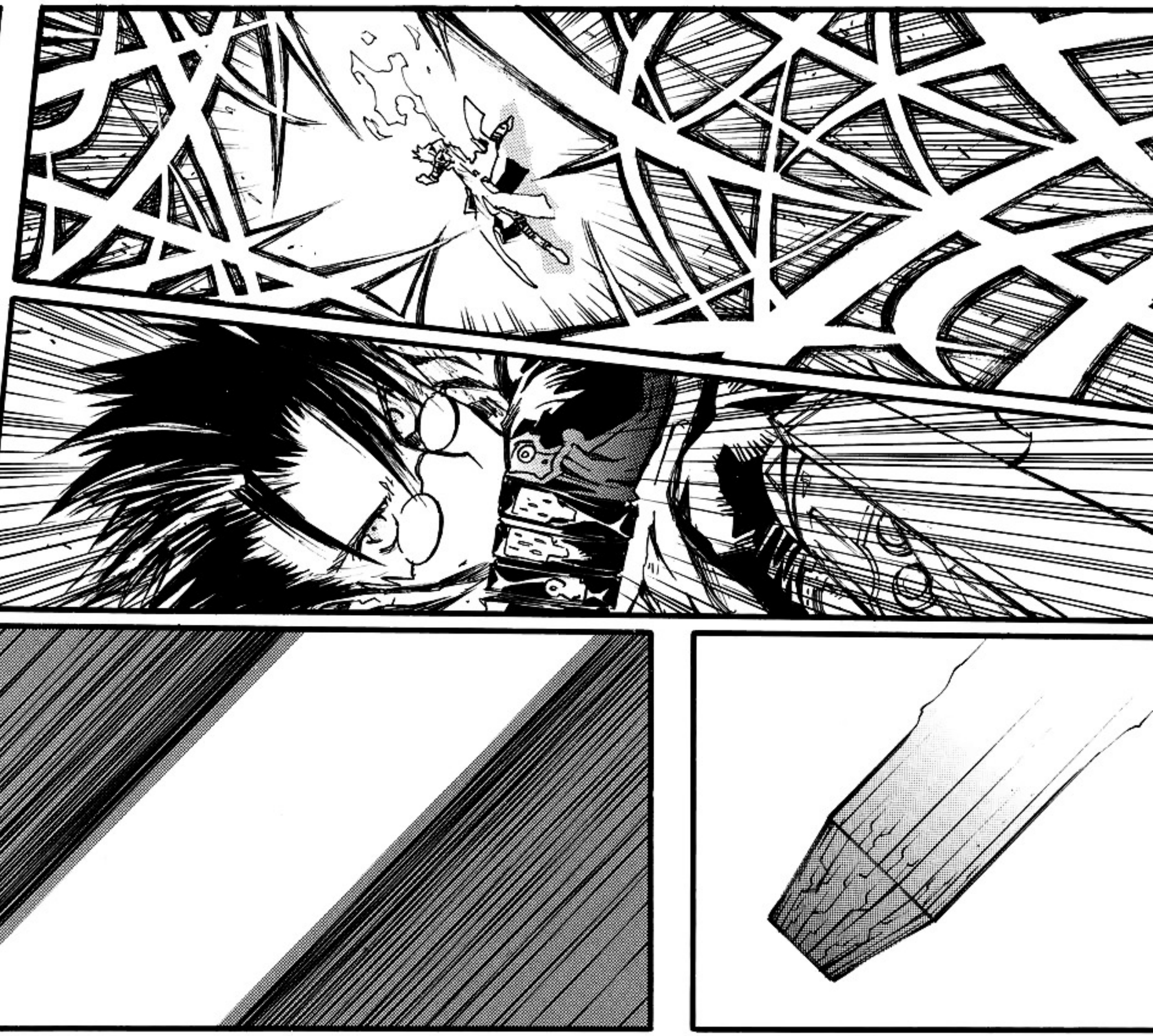


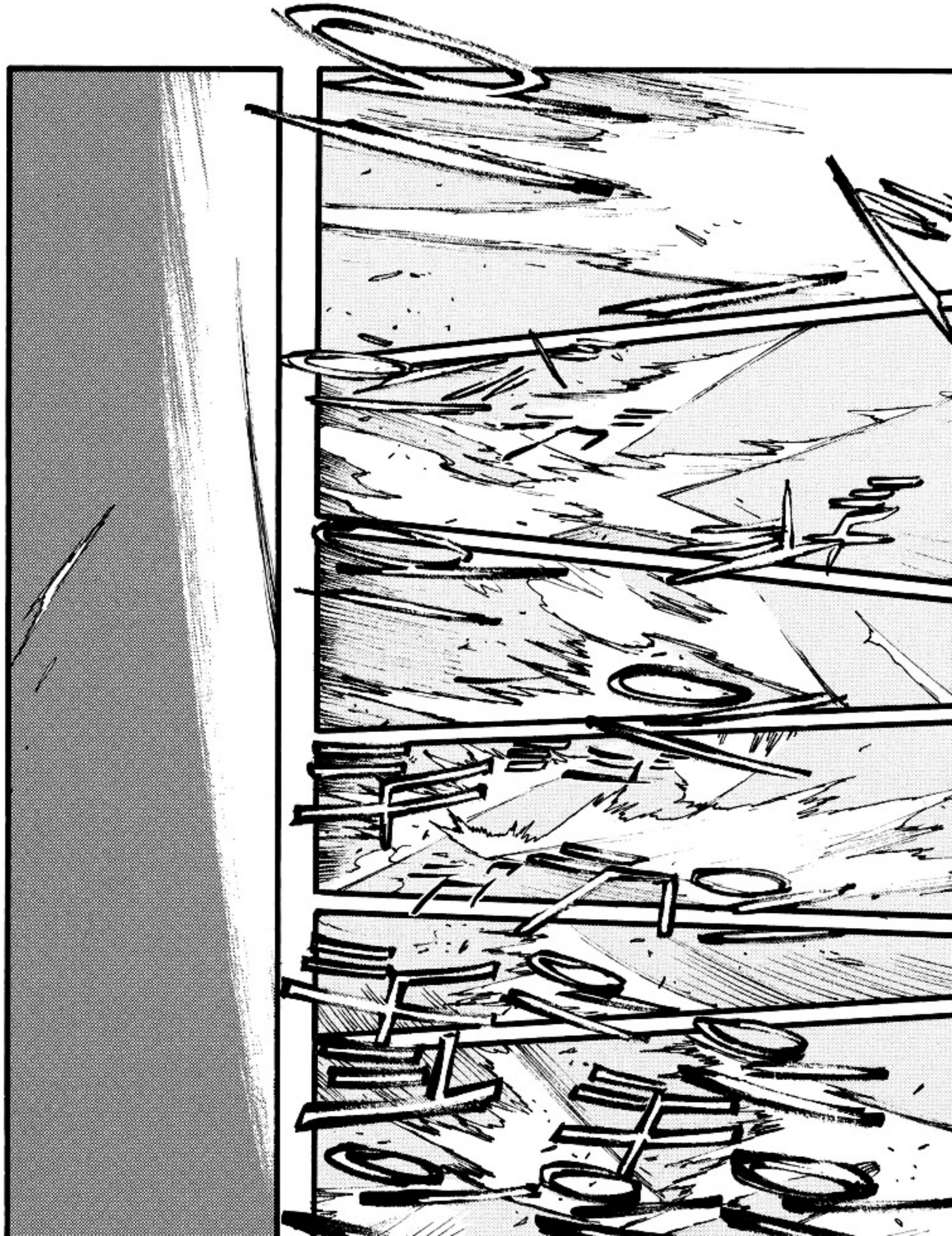

...TO...
...KILL ME.

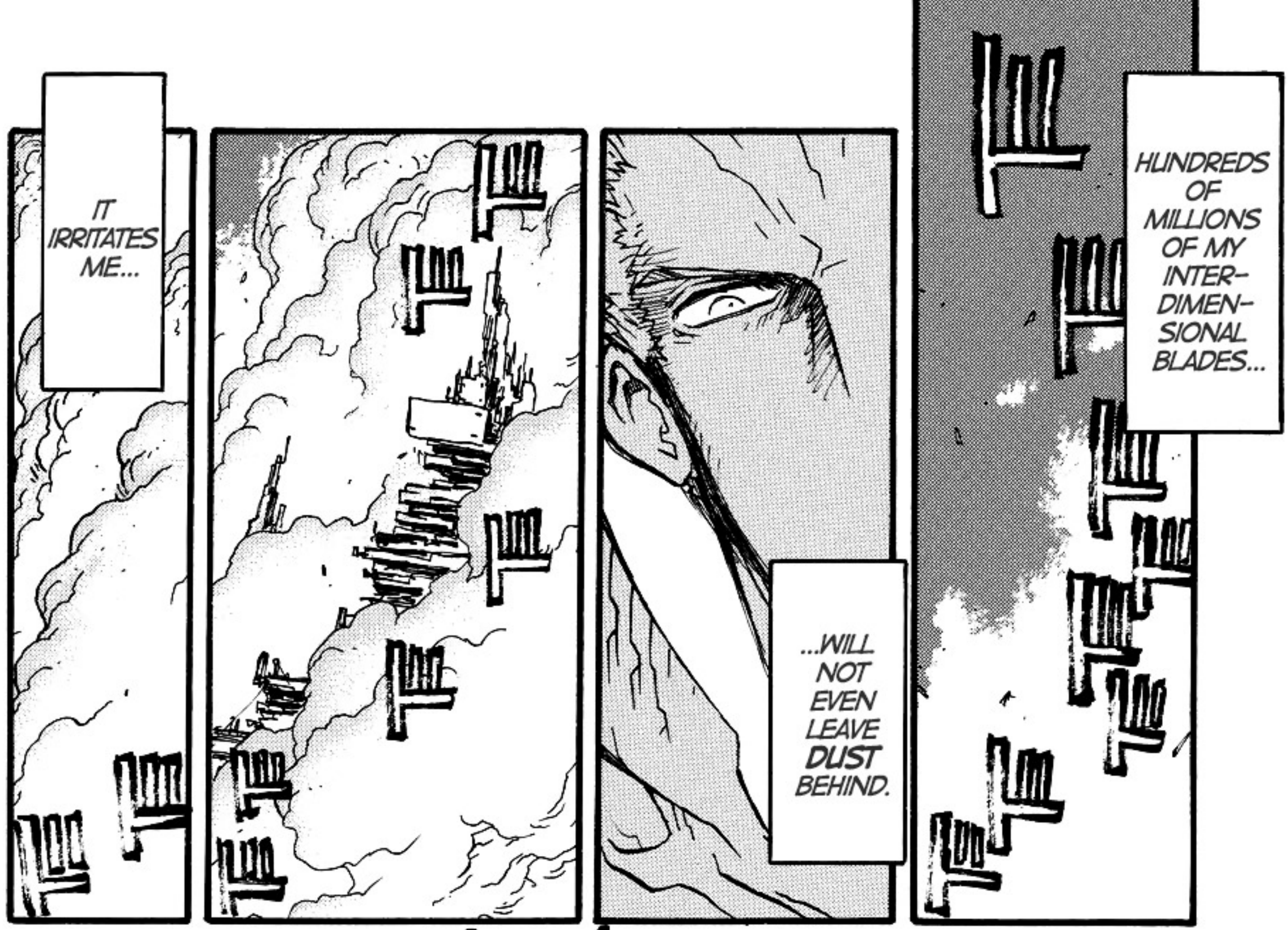


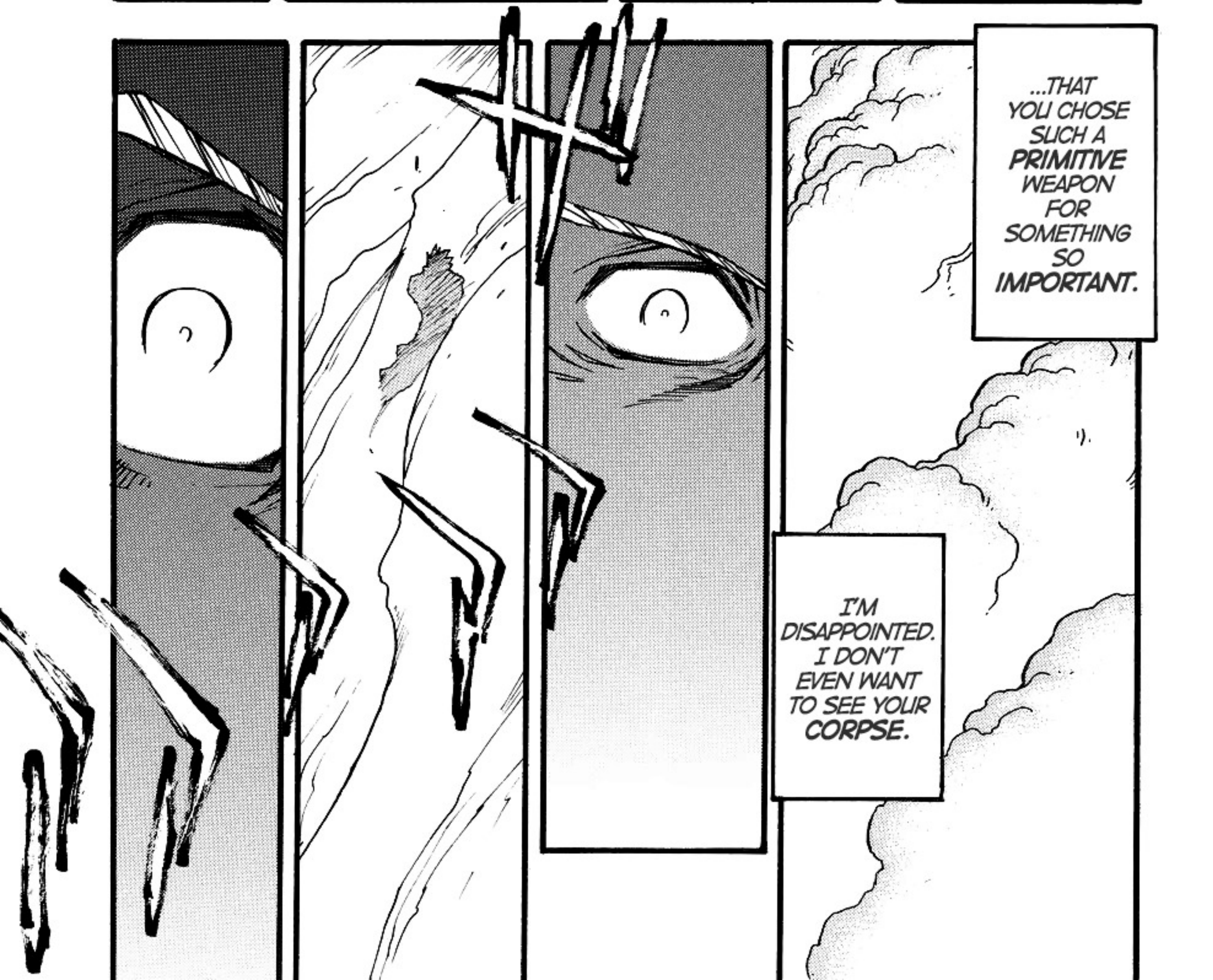

TIME TO SHUFFLE OFF THIS MORTAL COIL...
...BROTH-ER.







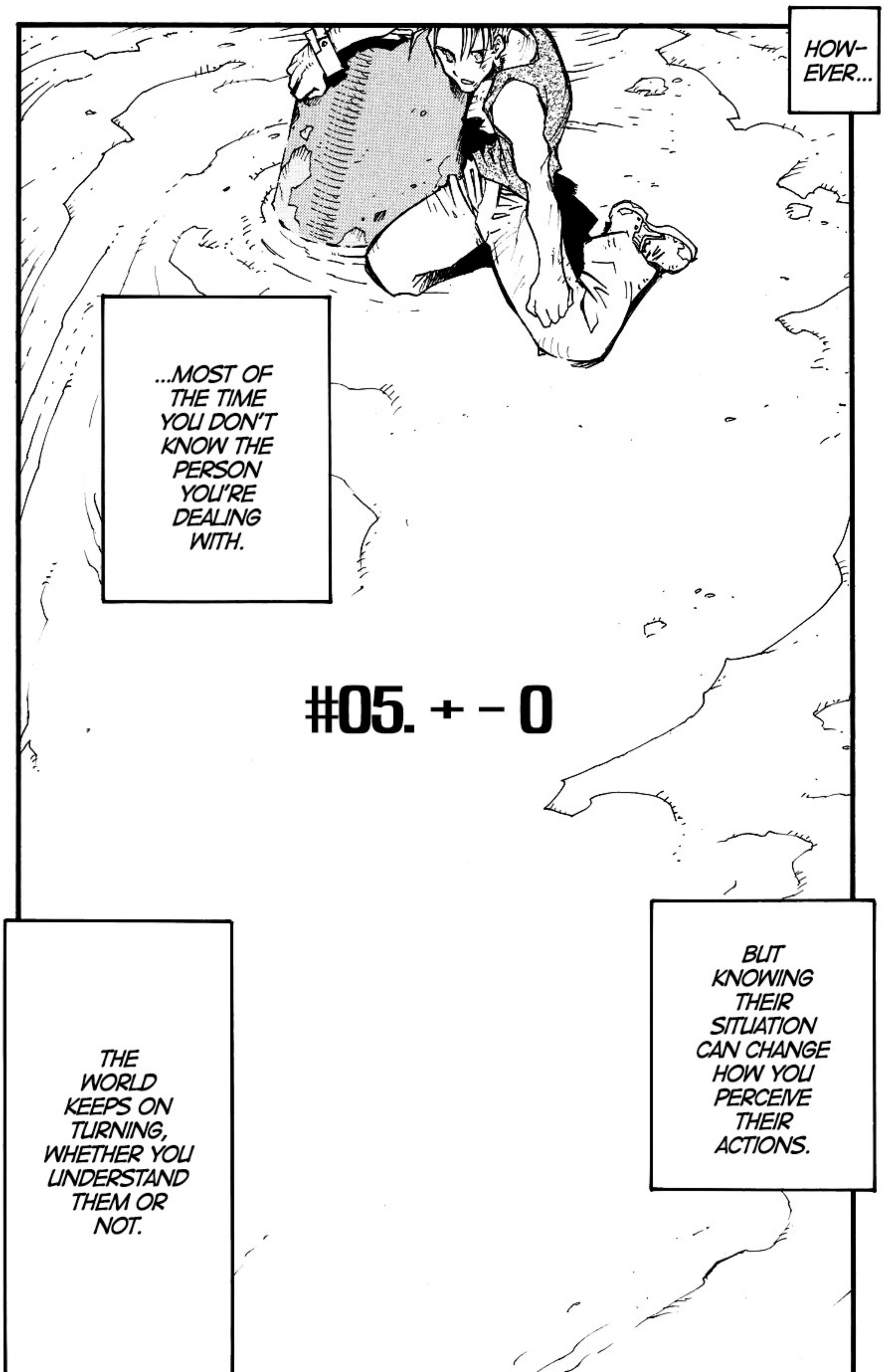

IT IRRITATES ME...
HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF MY INTER-DIMEN-SIONAL BLADES...
...WILL NOT EVEN LEAVE DUST BEHIND.

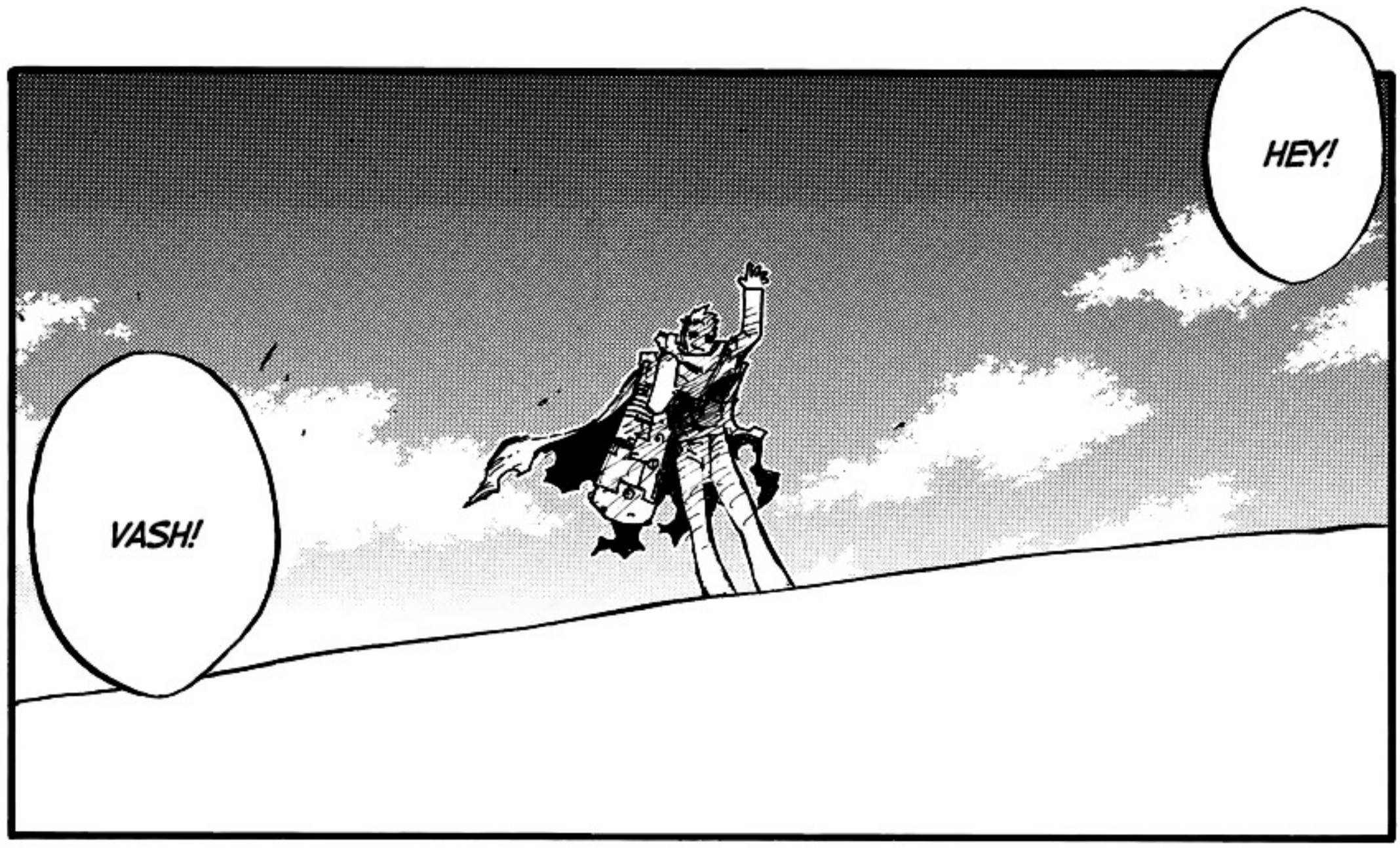

...THAT YOU CHOSE SUCH A PRIMITIVE WEAPON FOR SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT.
I'M DISAPPOINTED. I DON'T EVEN WANT TO SEE YOUR CORPSE.

THAT'S RIGHT.
I SEE.
I'VE FOUGHT WITH THIS GUN A THOUSAND TIMES.
YOUR POWER...
...YOU MADE IT TAKE THE SHAPE OF BULLETS.
AND THE SPEED OF A BULLET IS FASTER THAN WHAT YOU CAN PERCEIVE.

#04. THE GUNSLINGER / END

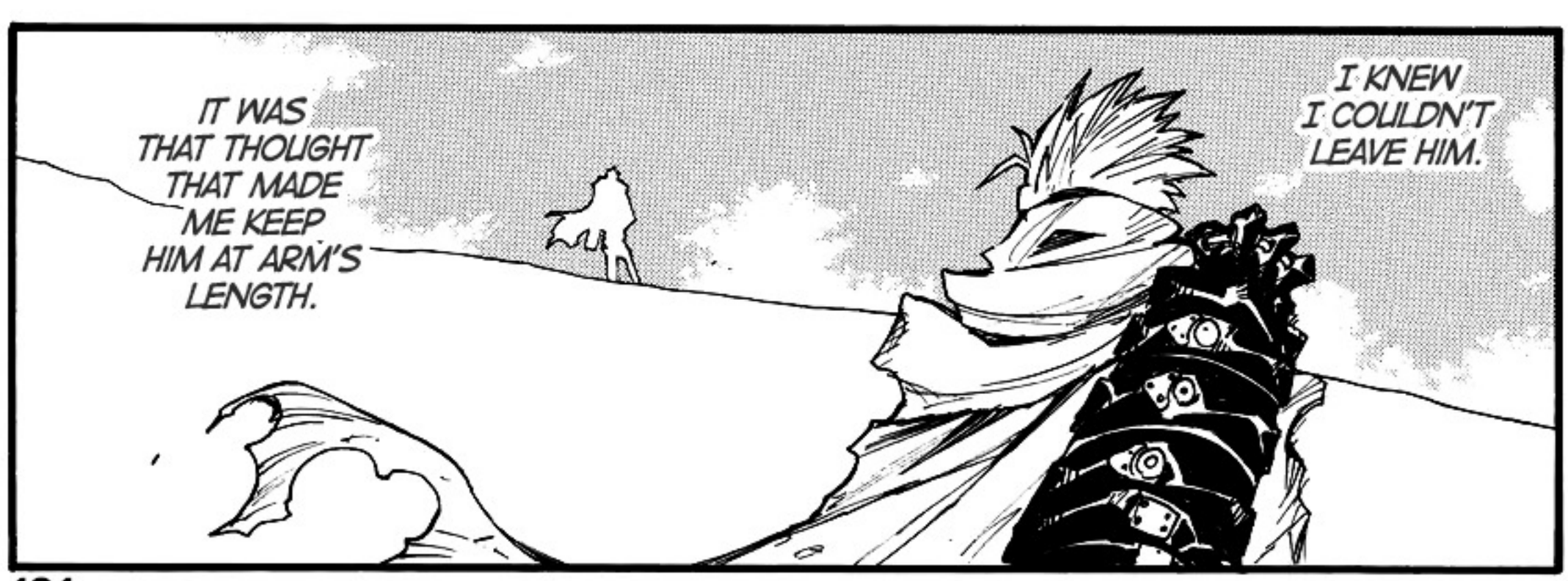
NOTHING PERSONAL, KID.
SO...
GO AHEAD AND HATE US IF YOU WANNA.
I WON'T SAY ALL HUMANS ARE GREAT.

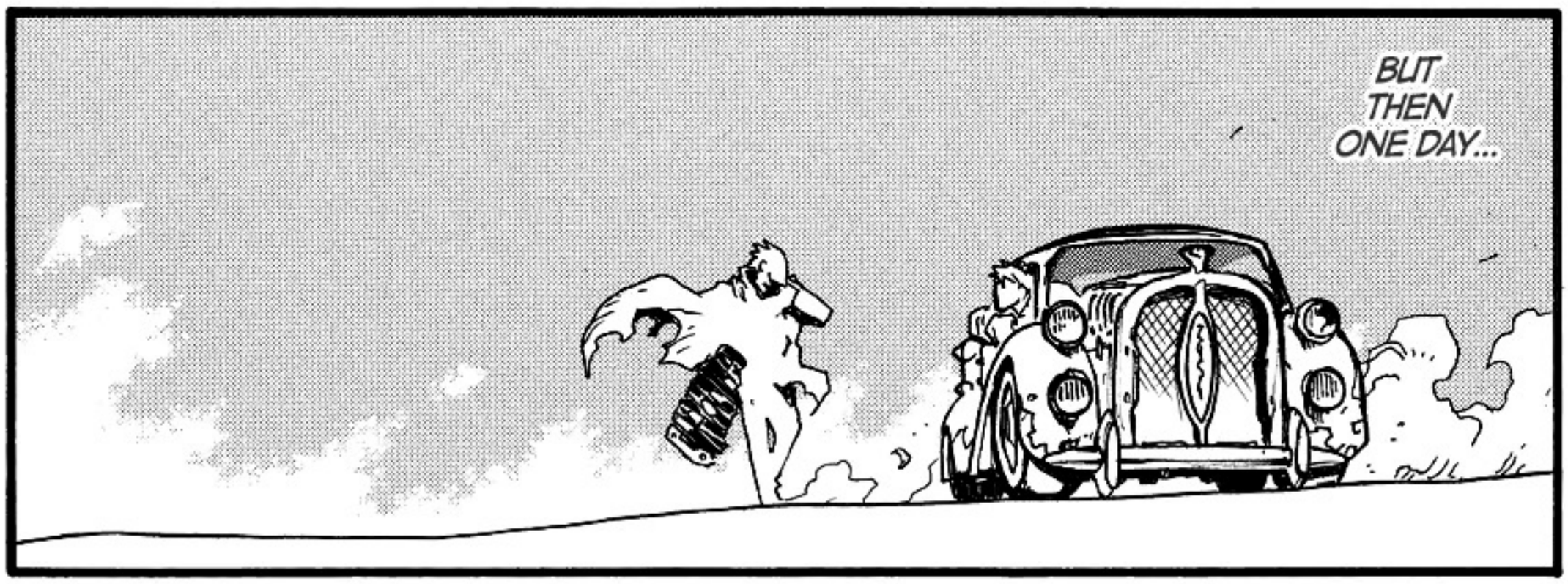

HOW-EVER...
...MOST OF THE TIME YOU DON'T KNOW THE PERSON YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
#05. + − 0
BUT KNOWING THEIR SITUATION CAN CHANGE HOW YOU PERCEIVE THEIR ACTIONS.
THE WORLD KEEPS ON TURNING, WHETHER YOU UNDERSTAND THEM OR NOT.

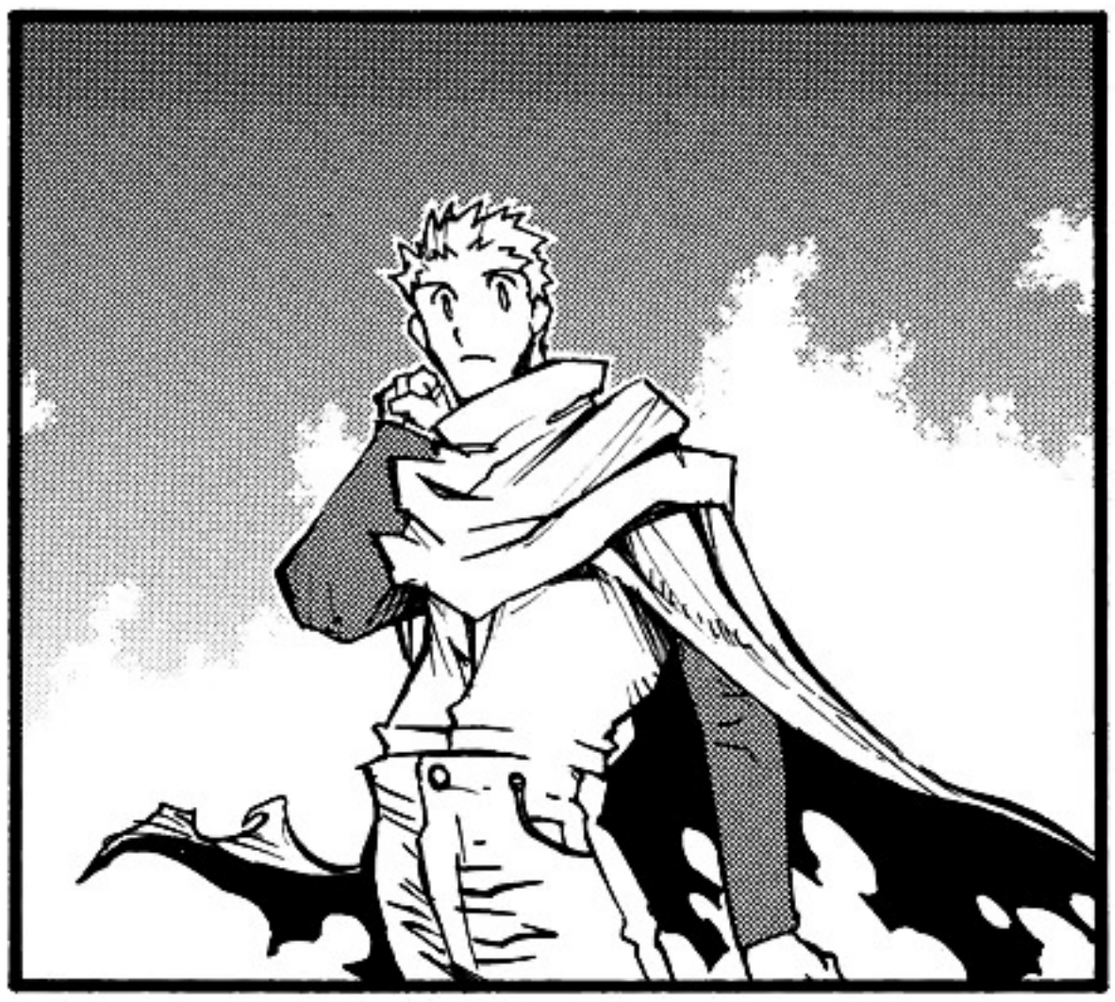

HEY!
VASH!

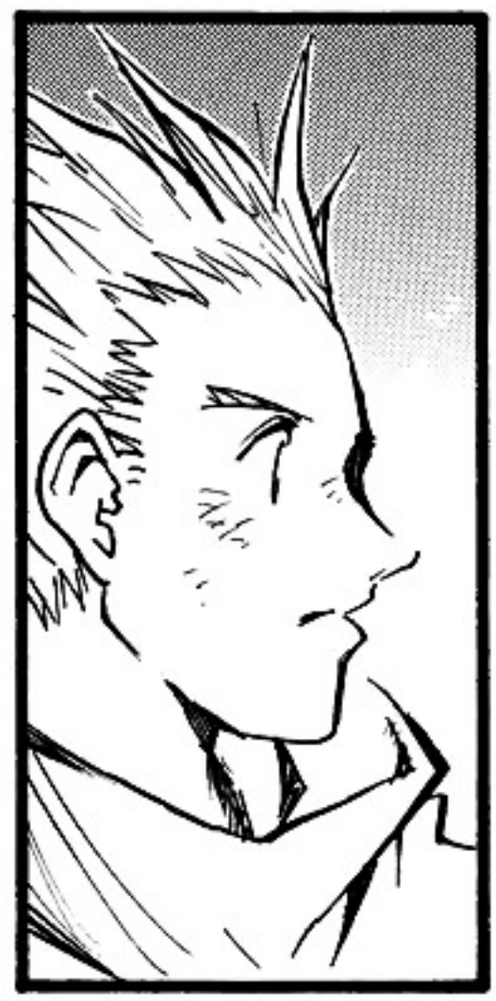
TIME PASSED SLOWLY. WE DIDN'T PART, BUT WE DIDN'T GROW ANY CLOSER EITHER.

IT WAS ABOUT EIGHTY YEARS AFTER THE BIG FALL.

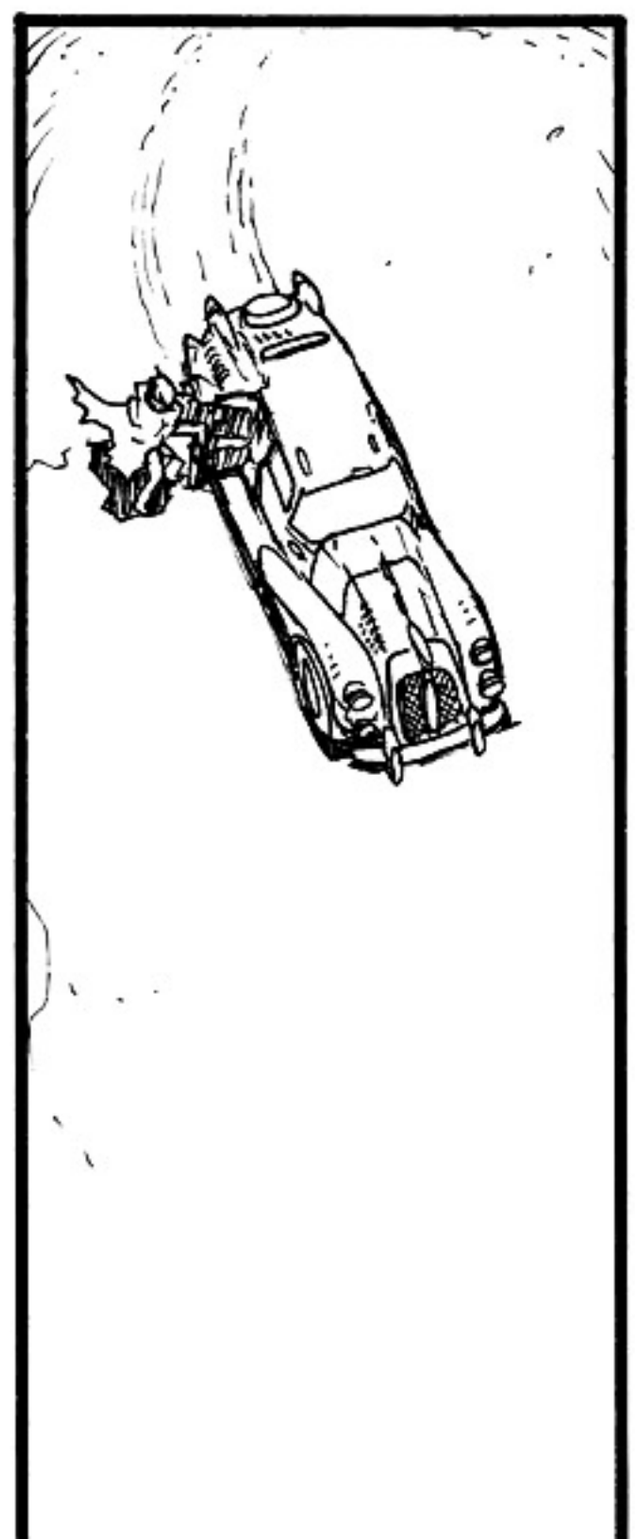

IT WAS THAT THOUGHT THAT MADE ME KEEP HIM AT ARM'S LENGTH.
I KNEW I COULDN'T LEAVE HIM.

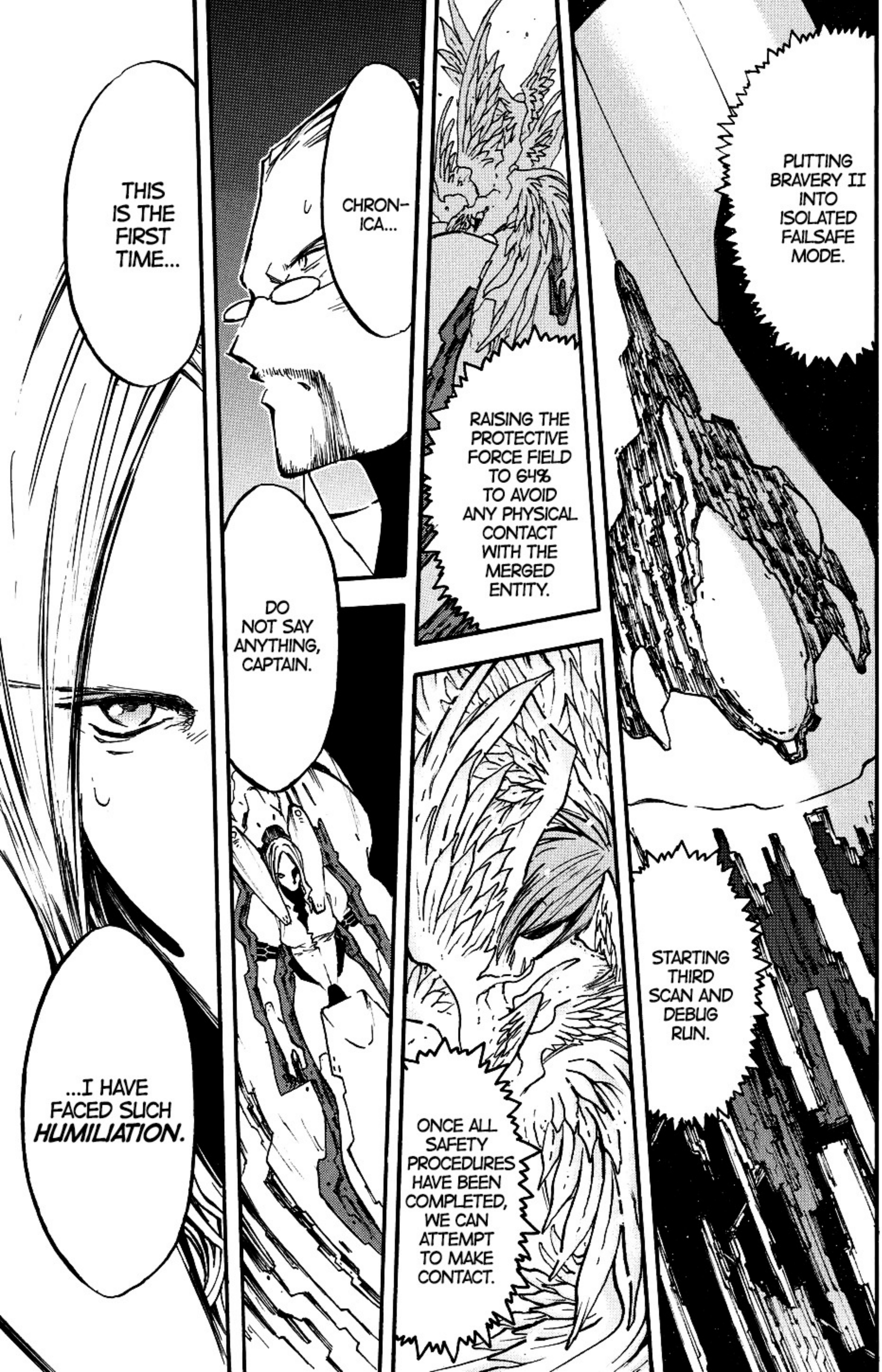

BUT THEN ONE DAY...

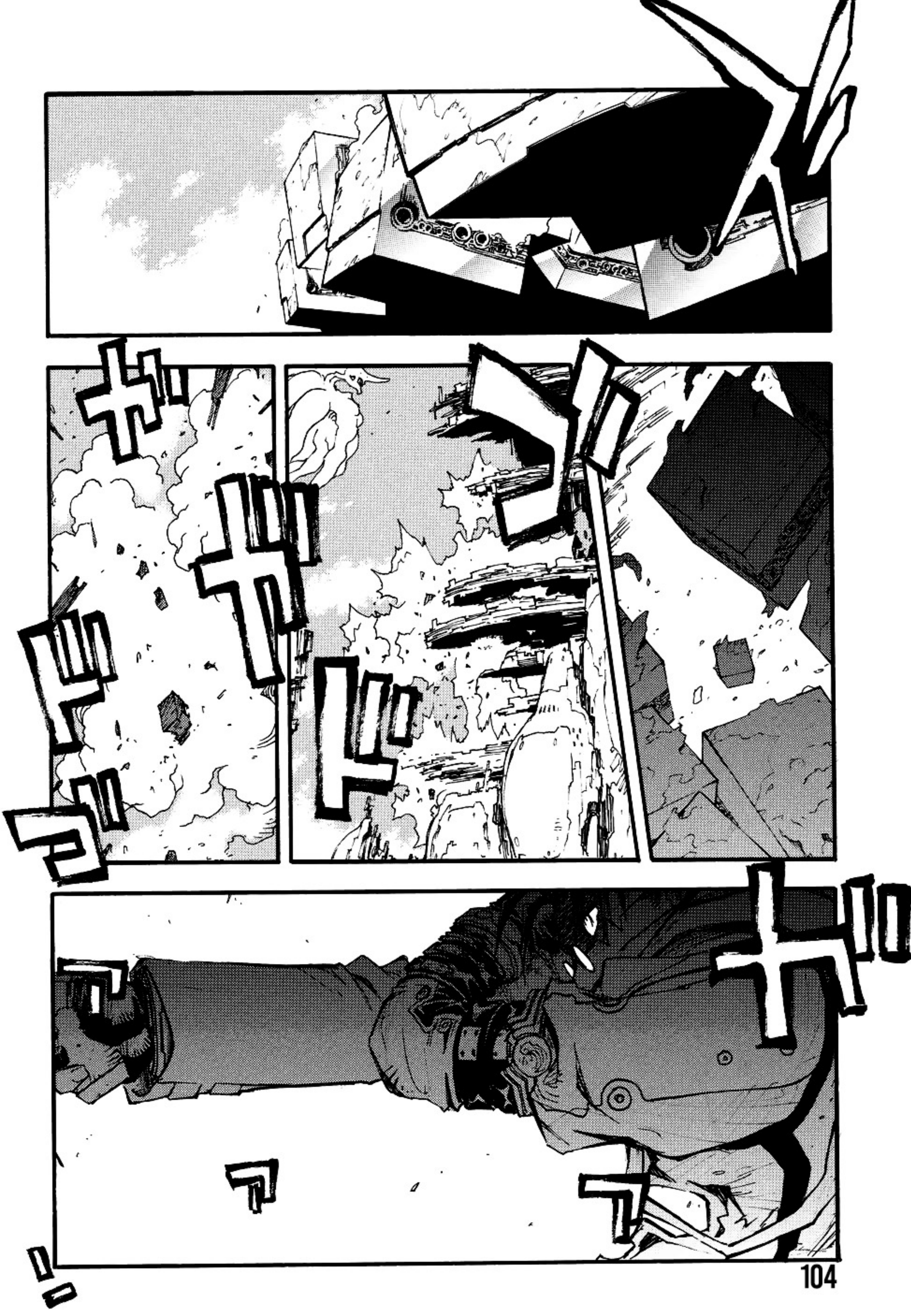


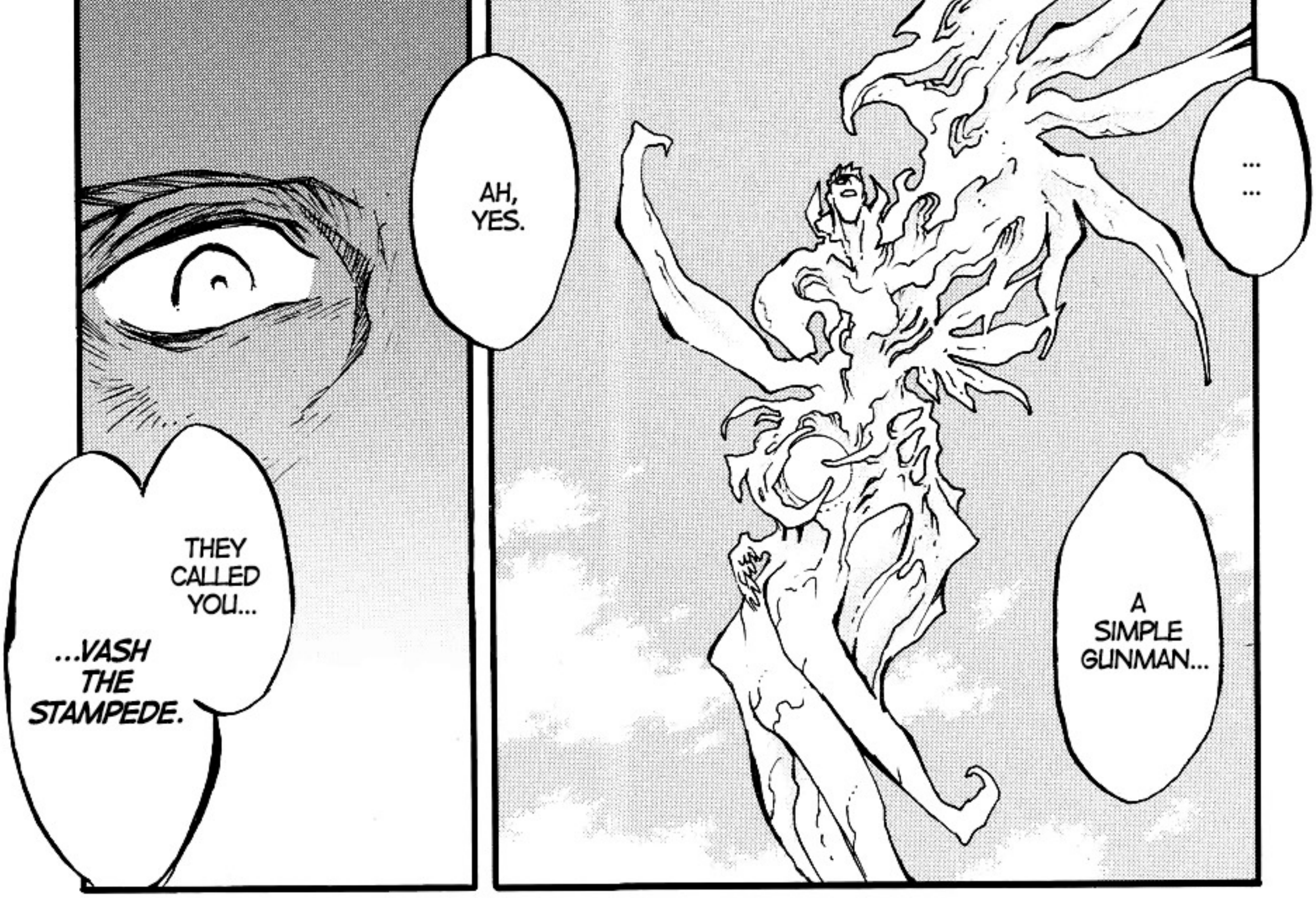


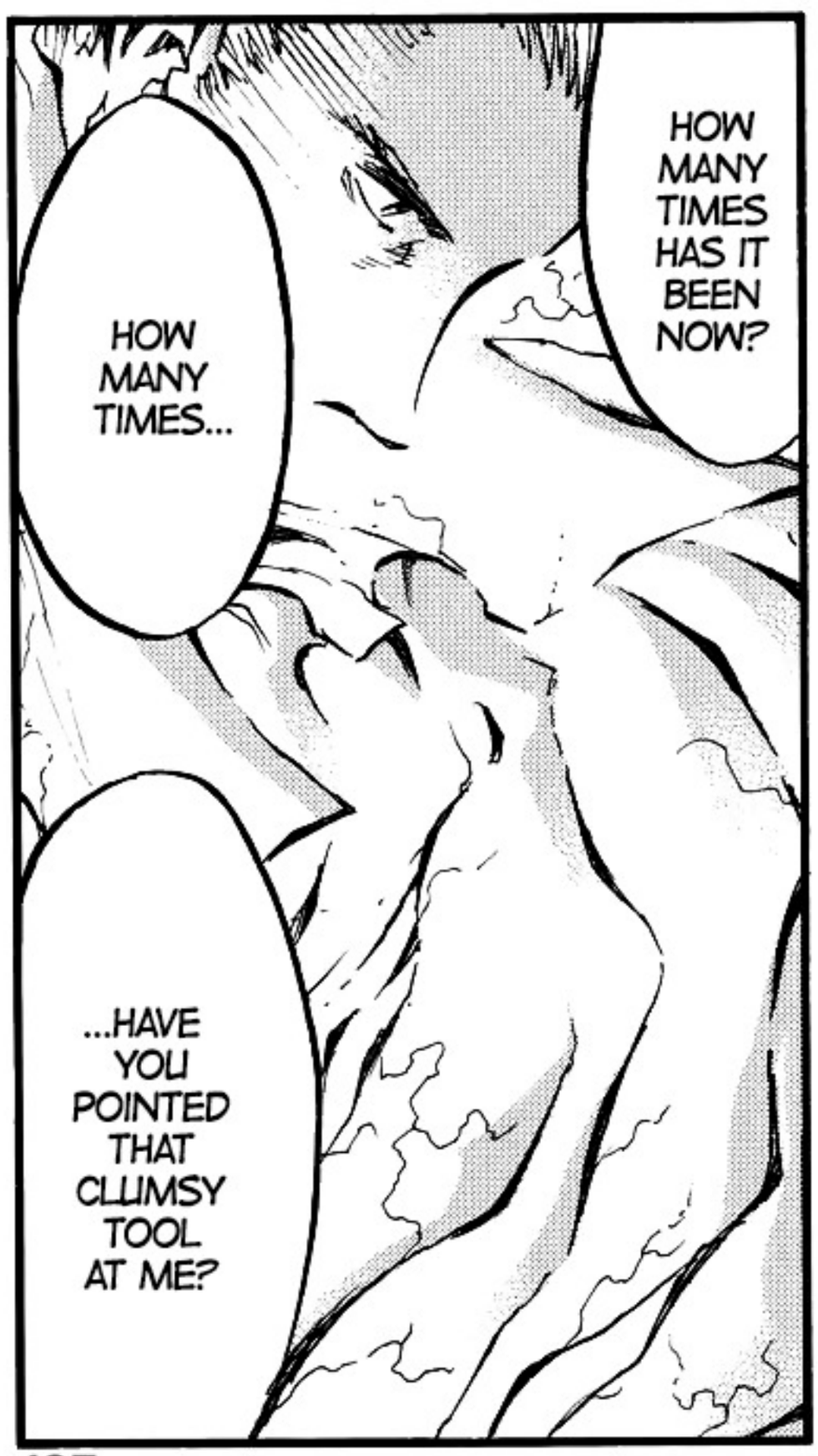
THIS WAS IT.
THE BEGINNING OF A TRAGEDY.

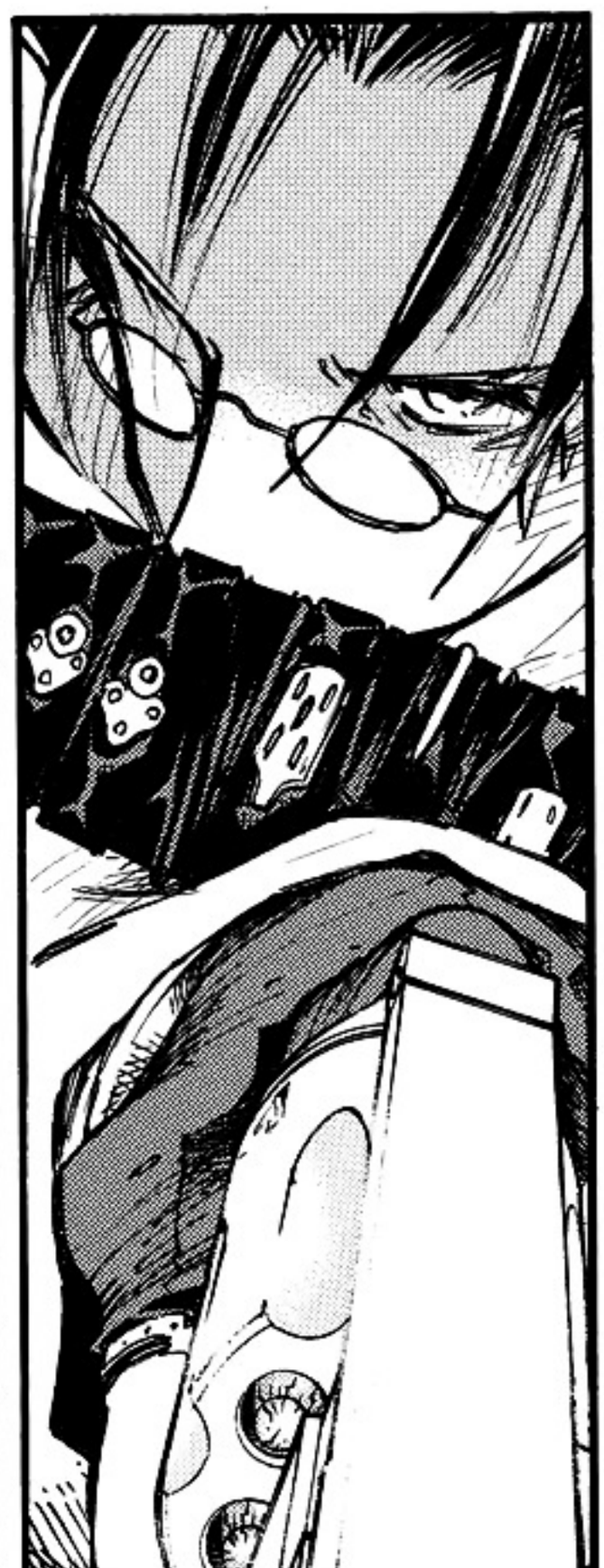


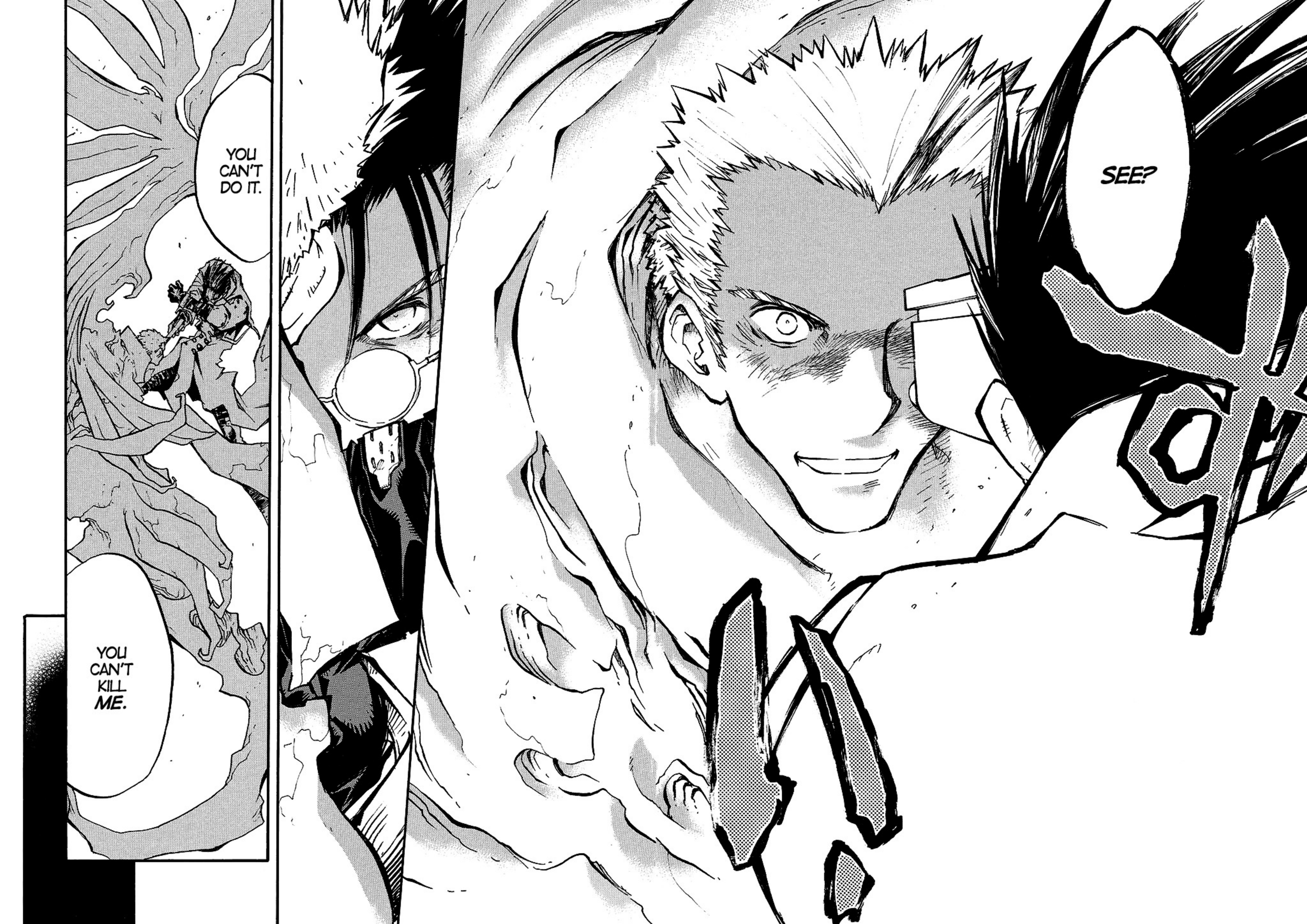

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
CHRON-ICA...
RAISING THE PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD TO 64% TO AVOID ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE MERGED ENTITY.
PUTTING BRAVERY II INTO ISOLATED FAILSAFE MODE.
DO NOT SAY ANYTHING, CAPTAIN.
...I HAVE FACED SUCH *HUMILIATION.*
ONCE ALL SAFETY PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED, WE CAN ATTEMPT TO MAKE CONTACT.
STARTING THIRD SCAN AND DEBUG RUN.



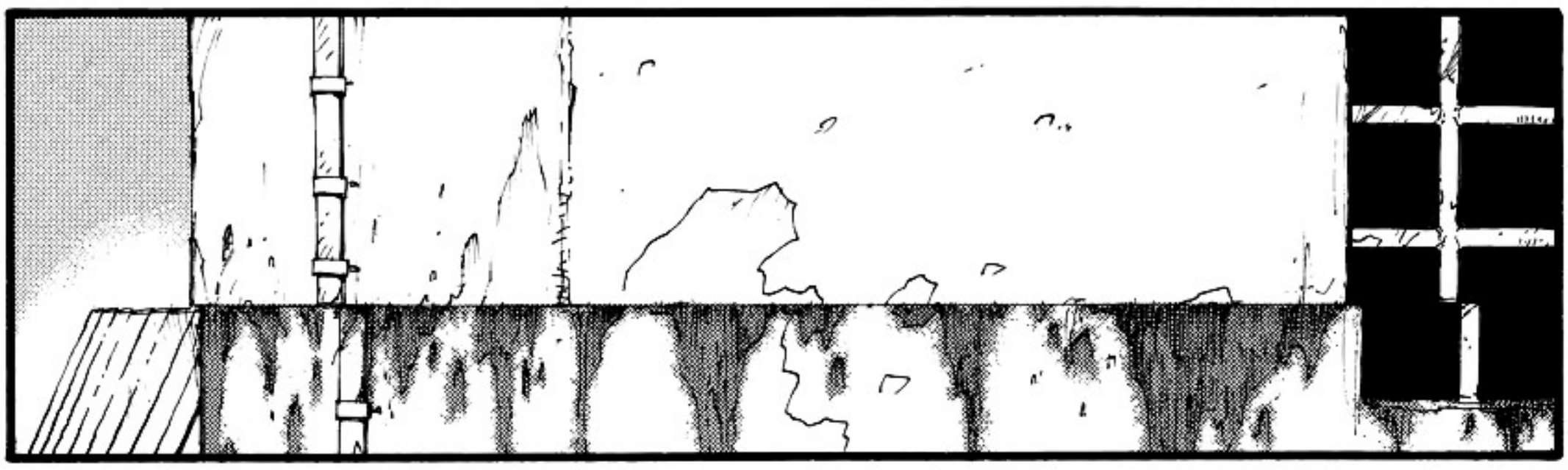

AH, YES.
THEY CALLED YOU...
...VASH THE STAMPEDE.
...
...
A SIMPLE GUNMAN...


HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT BEEN NOW?
HOW MANY TIMES...
...HAVE YOU POINTED THAT CLUMSY TOOL AT ME?

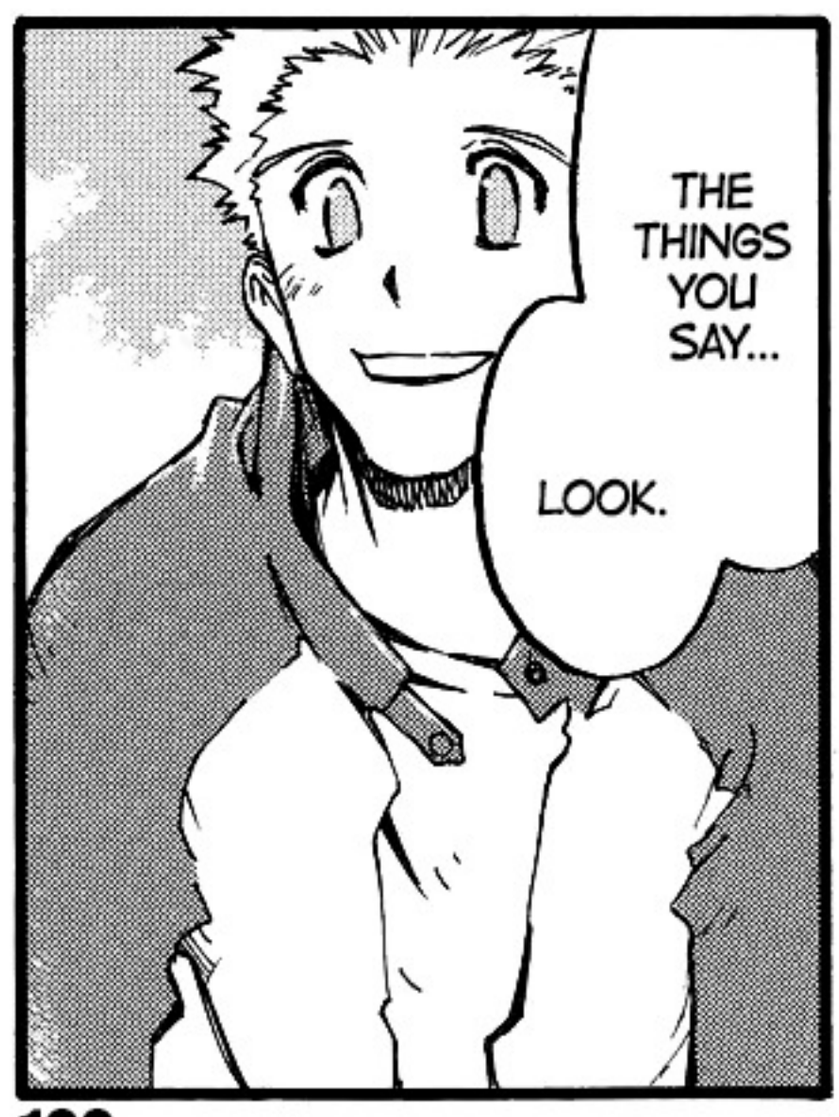



YOU CAN'T DO IT.
YOU CAN'T KILL ME.
SEE?

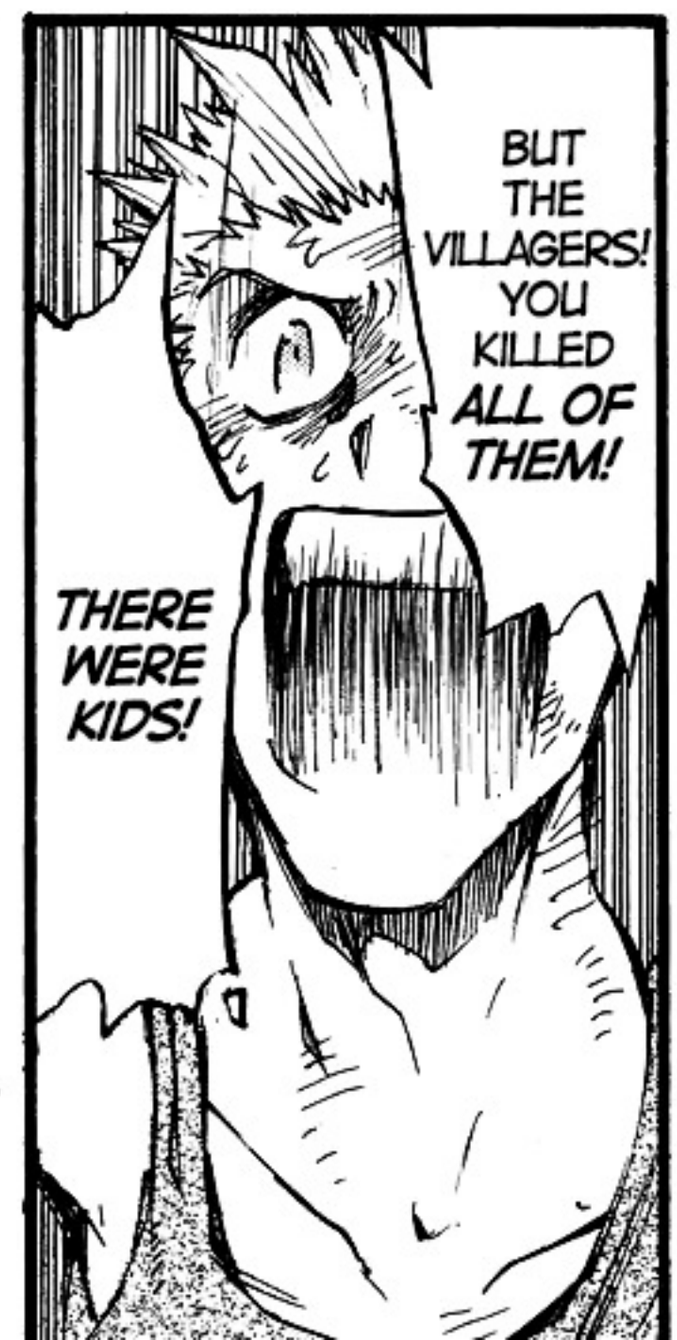
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
...ARE YOU...
...POINTING THAT GUN AT ME?
WHY...

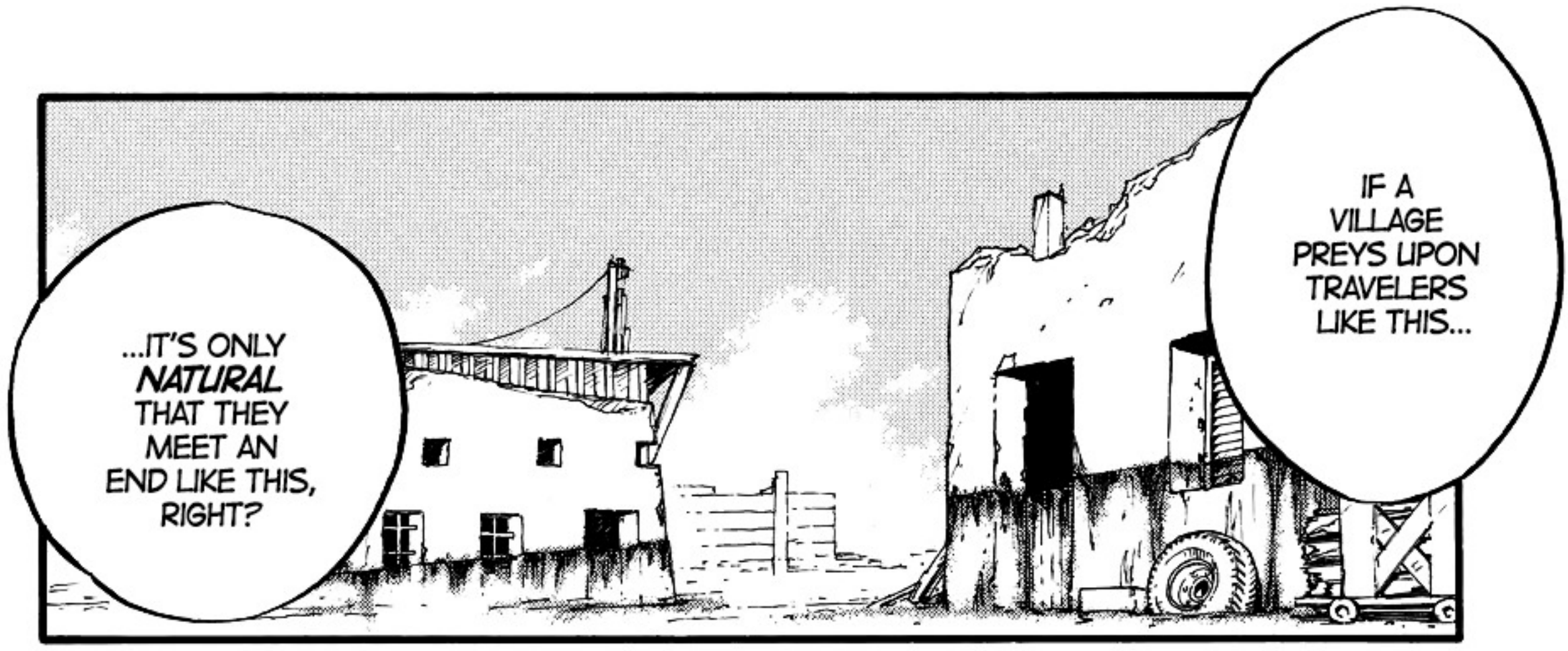


...I SAVED YOU?
EVEN THOUGH...


THE THINGS YOU SAY...
LOOK.

HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU HAVE TO KILL BEFORE YOU'RE SATIS-FIED?!
HOW MANY ?!


BUT THE VILLAGERS! YOU KILLED ALL OF THEM!
THERE WERE KIDS!


...IT'S ONLY *NATURAL* THAT THEY MEET AN END LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
IF A VILLAGE PREYS UPON TRAVELERS LIKE THIS...

...THEN THIS PLANET WILL BE DOMINATED BY HUMANS LIKE THESE IN NO TIME.
IF MORE THOUGHT LIKE YOU DO...

YOU ONLY FELL FOR THEIR LIES BECAUSE YOU'RE SO *GULLIBLE.*
THAT'S NOT IT!

OH, WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME.
WHILE YOU SIT HERE AND COOL DOWN...

THE QUIET ONES WILL ONLY BE THEIR PREY.
THEY THINK NOTHING OF STEALING FROM THEIR *OWN KIND.*

...WILL *FINALLY* WIPE THEM *ALL* FROM THE MAP.

...I...

KNIVES, WAIT!

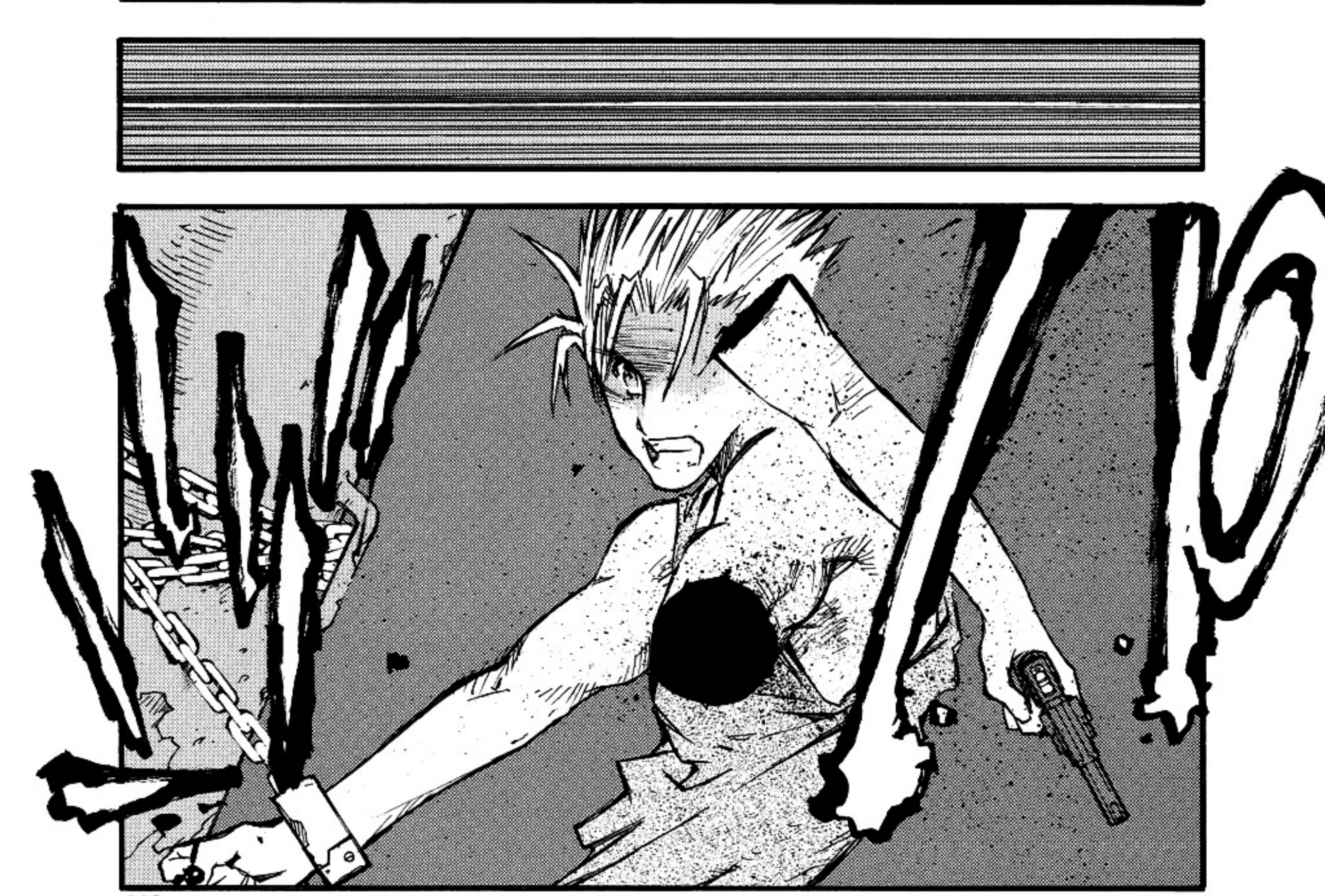
WAIT!

!!

AAAA

HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
HAAH!
...
...
VASH...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SHOOT ME...

...IMPROVE YOUR AIM...
...YOU INCOMPETENT FOOL!
...THEN...
...YOU BETTER...



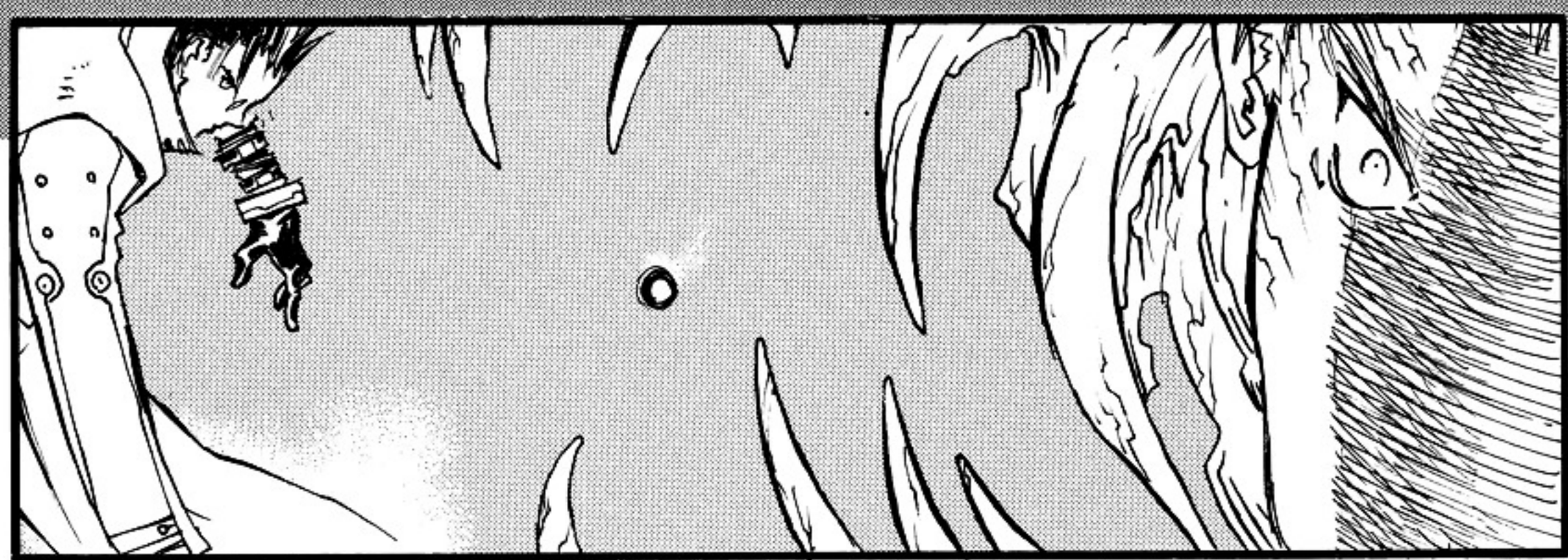
AAAA

THIS TIME, WHEN YOU GO, I GO.

DON'T WORRY, KNIVES.

...TO BRING IT ALL TO AN *END.*

I *WILL* USE EVERY BIT OF STRENGTH I HAVE LEFT...



IS HE REALLY GOING TO HOLD BACK TO THE BITTER END?
COME ON, LET'S GO!
HMPH.
HE WAS A TERRIBLE SHOT BACK THEN, BUT NOW HIS AIM IS PRECISE AND LETHAL.
...
...

...I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

YOUR SKILLS ARE IMPRESSIVE, VASH.

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO RESPOND WITH ***RUTHLESS FORCE*** FROM NOW ON.

HOW-EVER...

#05. +-0 / END

#06. RESONANCE

HANDS OFF, KNIVES.
UNLESS YOU WANNA GET SUCKED INTO A BLACK HOLE.
...
...
VASH, YOU BAS-TARD...

YOU CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD WITH YOUR FIRST SHOTS.

YOU COULD EASILY HAVE TAKEN MY HEAD.

WHAT?

YOU'RE SICK.

YOU'RE SO ADAMANT ABOUT SETTLING THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL...

...YET YOU THROW AWAY THE CHANCE TO TAKE THE ADVANTAGE. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

YOU WANT ME TO REPENT? IS THAT IT?

YOU CAN'T BE THAT STUPID.

NO...

THERE IS...

...SOMETHING ELSE GOING ON.

WE *MUST* FIND A WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM!
IT HAS TO WORK!
DON'T LET THE SLIGHTEST PULSE PASS YOU BY!

AND *NOW* YOU WANT US TO *TALK*...

...*WITH THE HUMANS!*

ALL THIS TIME...

...THEY'VE BEEN PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH JUST USING US!

THAT'S IT.

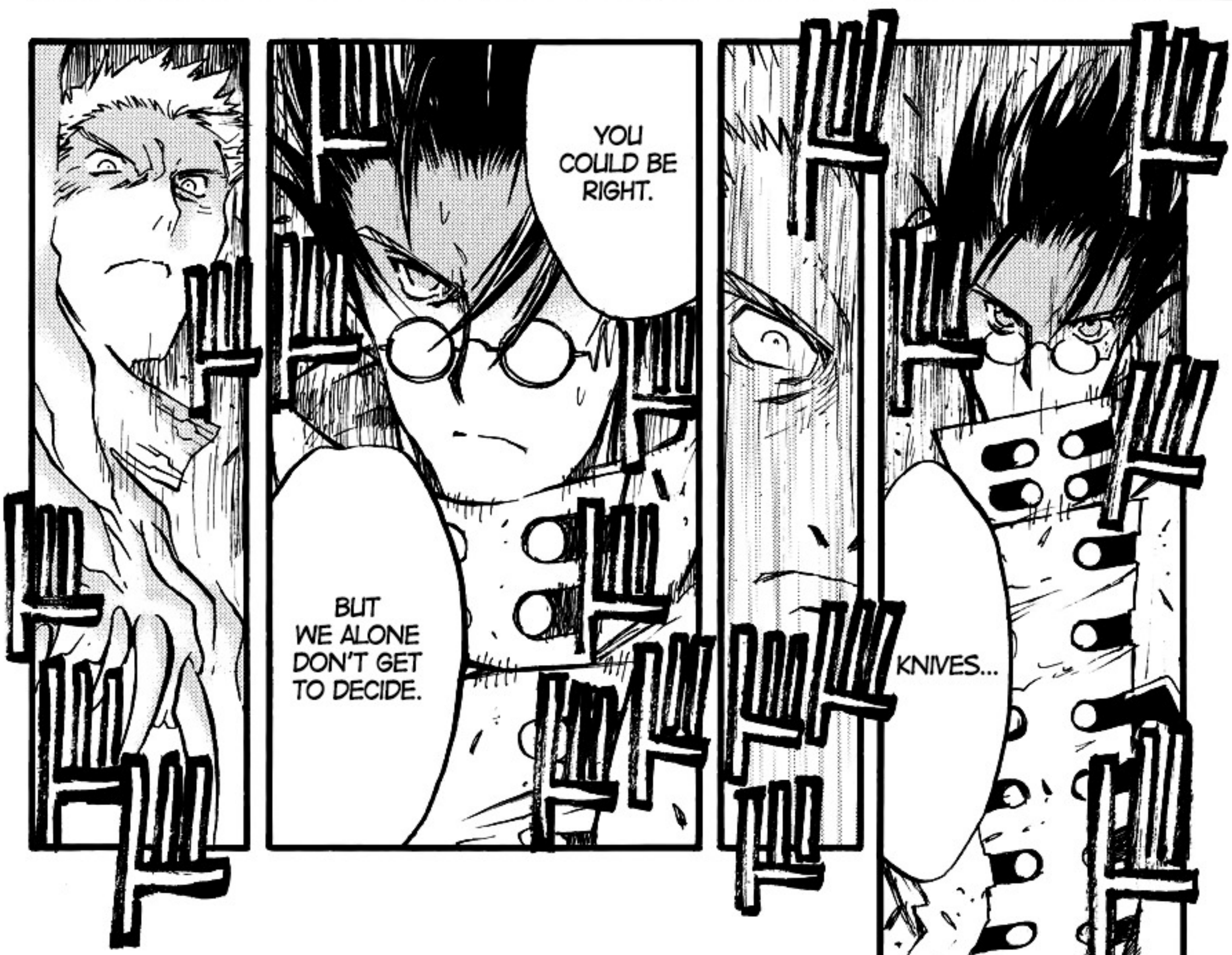
THEY'RE TRYING TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PLANTS.

THERE IS BLOOD TO BE PAID!

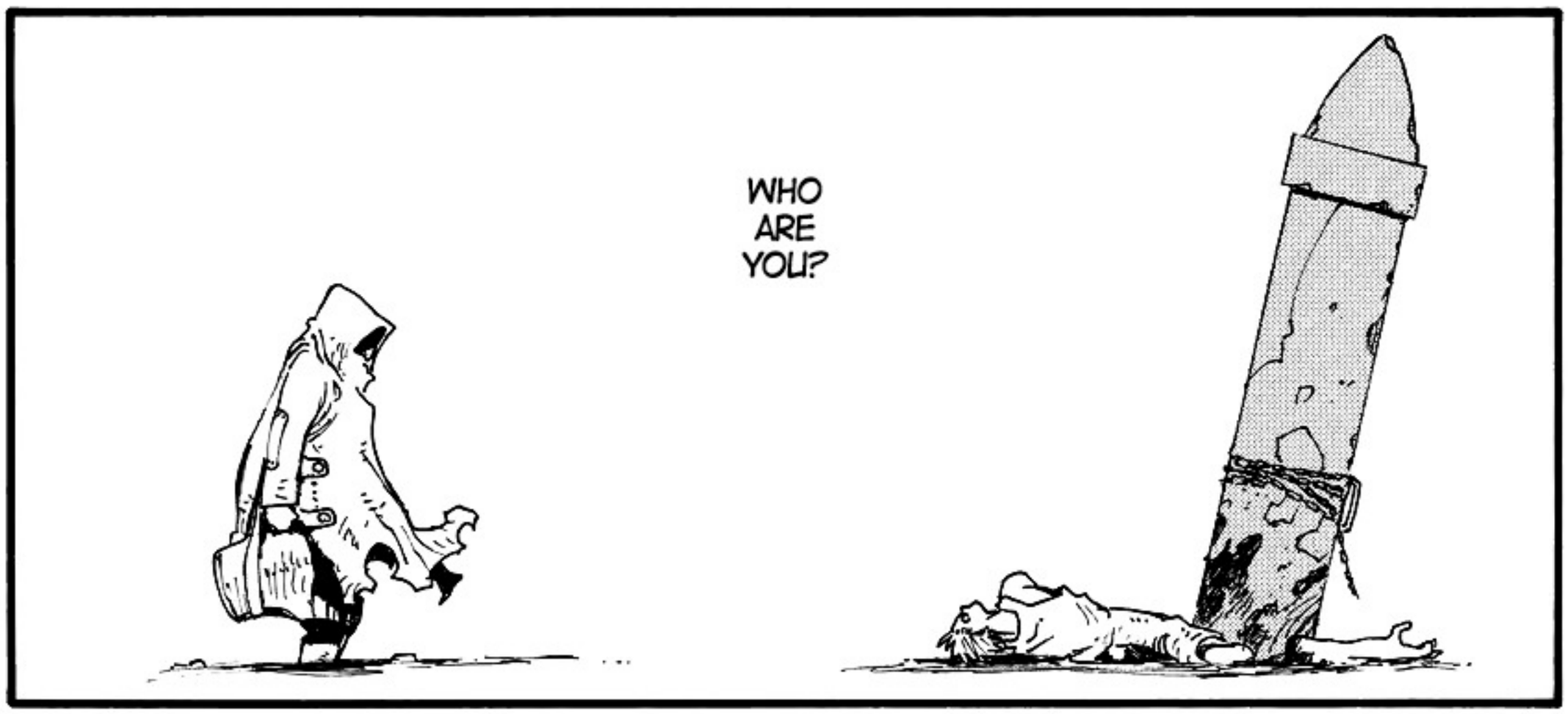
THEY ARE A HOPE-LESS SPECIES!

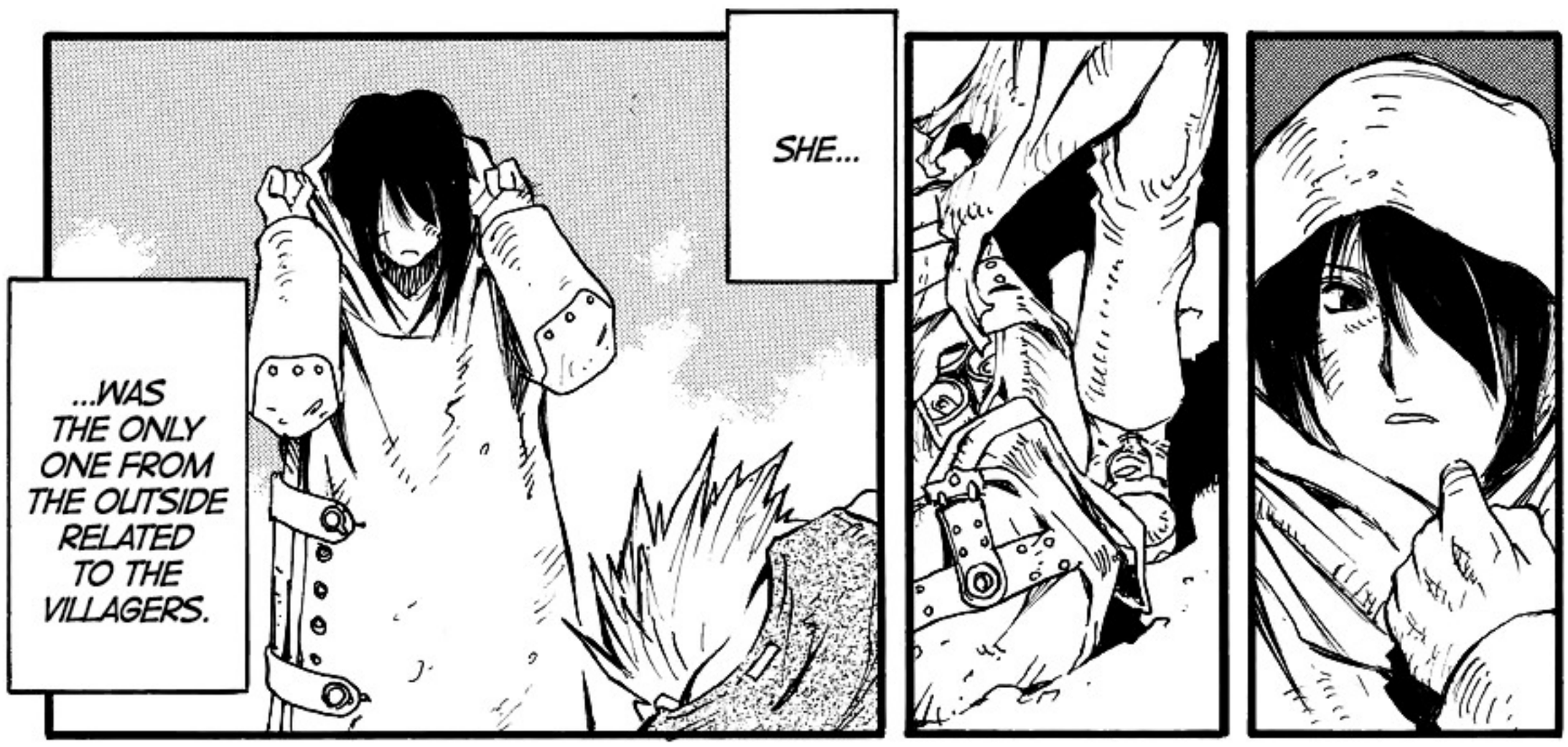
I WILL NOT LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR LECTURES ON FORGIVENESS!

YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED, VASH!


BUT WE ALONE DON'T GET TO DECIDE.
YOU COULD BE RIGHT.
KNIVES...

...THAT VILLAGE WHERE YOU TOOK MY LEFT ARM?
DO YOU REMEM-BER...
?!
THAT VILLAGE!
...BUT IT SEEMS YOU'RE STILL AS EMOTIONAL AND STUBBORN AS YOU--
I HOPED THAT EXPERIENCE WOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOU A LESSON...
AH, YES.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING. I SAID THERE WAS A REASON.
ARE YOU EVEN HEARING YOUR-SELF?
HA. NOW YOU'RE DEFEND-ING MURDER-ERS.
...FOR WHY THEY HAD TO PREY ON TRAVELERS TO SURVIVE.
THAT VILLAGE... THERE WAS A REASON...


WHO ARE YOU?


SHE...
...WAS THE ONLY ONE FROM THE OUTSIDE RELATED TO THE VILLAGERS.

ALL THE PEOPLE IN THAT VILLAGE WERE CHASED OUT OF THE CITY BECAUSE THEY WERE CONTAMI-NATED.
...WAS RADIO-ACTIVE CONTAMI-NATION.
THE REASON FOR ALL OF THIS...
SHE HAD BEEN TOLD TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO STAY AWAY.
IT WAS HER FIRST VISIT IN THREE YEARS.

...BUT THEY BELIEVED THEIR OWN LIVES WERE AT RISK.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY WERE WELL AWARE OF THIS...

ON THIS PLANET, BEING BANISHED FROM A CITY OR TOWN IS A DEATH SENTENCE.

...HER FAMILY ONLY WISHED FOR HER TO LIVE HAPPILY.

DESPITE BEING RAVAGED BY DESPAIR AND MISFOR-TUNE...

...SHE SAID THIS WAS THE SECOND TIME SHE WAS THE ONLY SURVIVOR.

WHILE SHE CRIED...

SO SHE AVOIDED BEING CON-TAMI-NATED.

SHE WAS OUT OF TOWN THE DAY WHEN AN ACCIDENT HAPPENED.

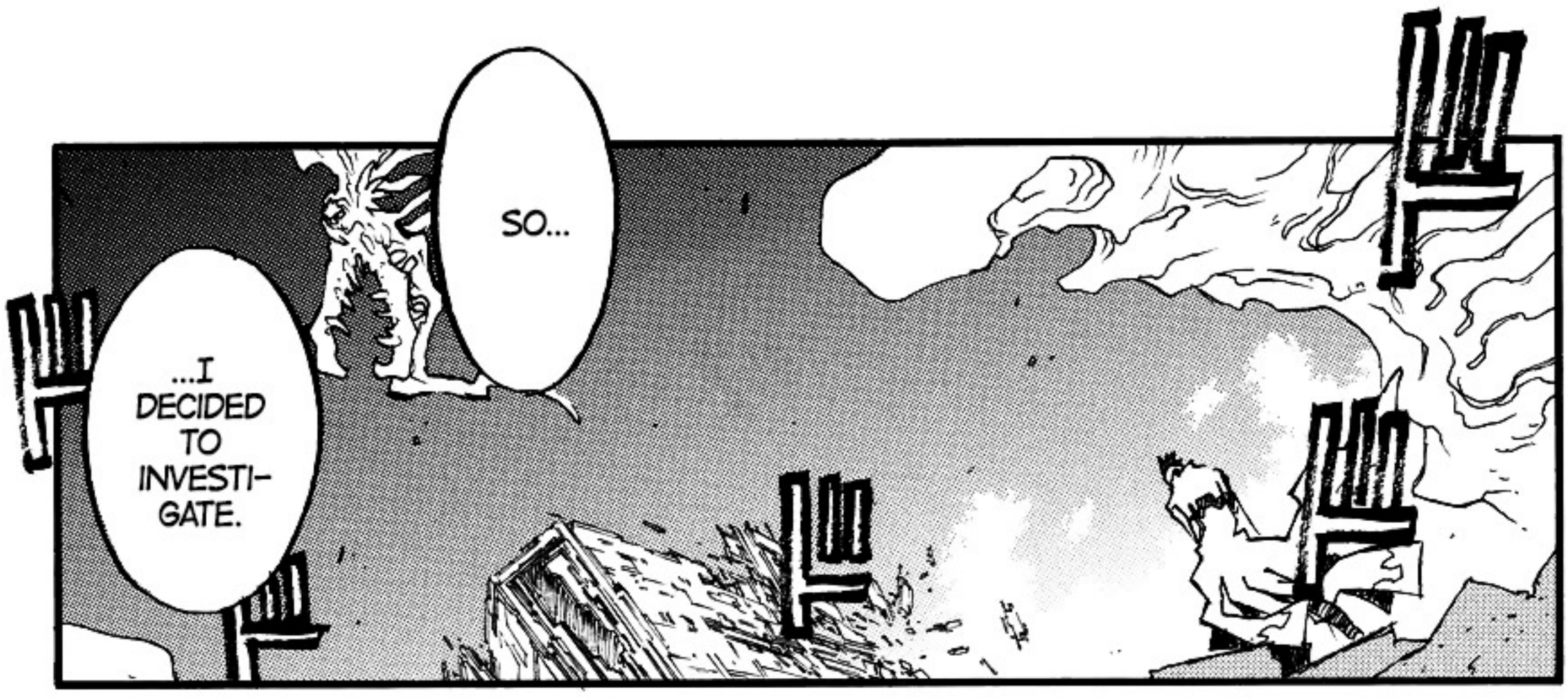
AND THEN SHE CONTINUED TO CRY...

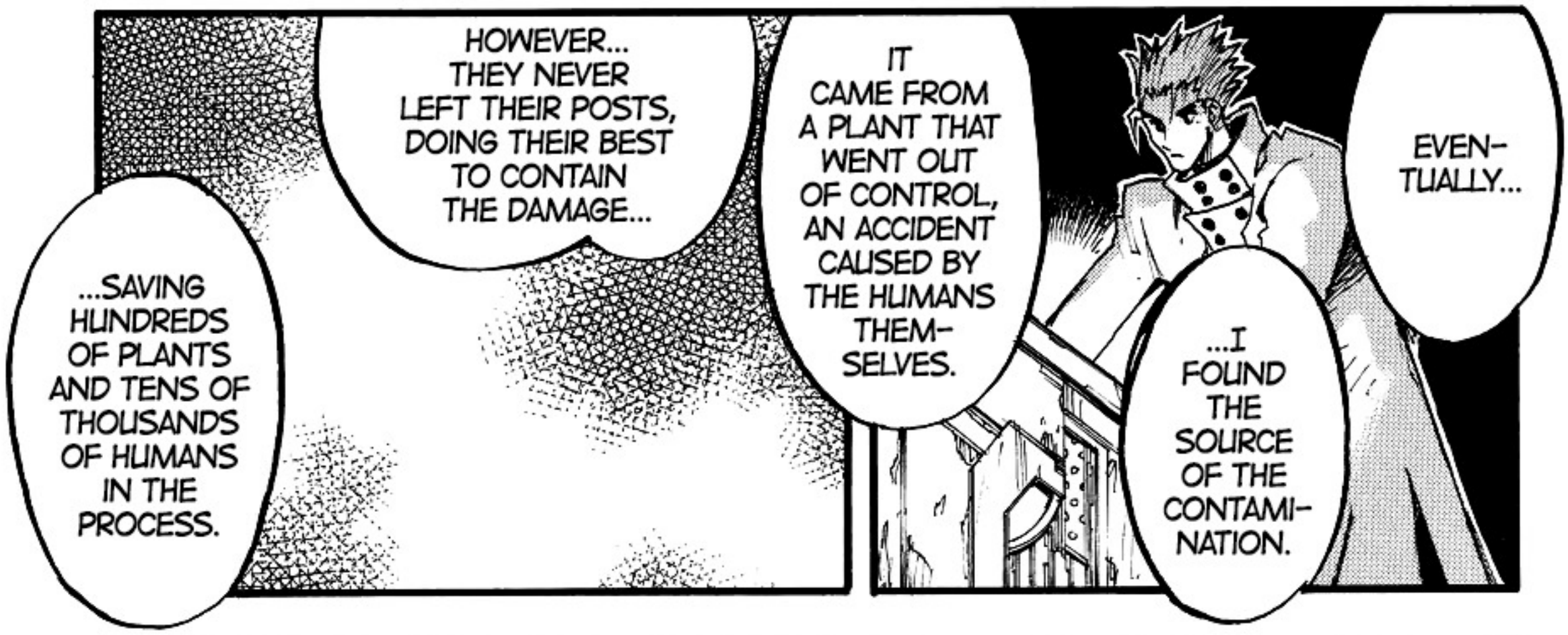
MAYBE THEY DESERVED THEIR FATE, STRAYING FROM THE PATH OF HUMANITY, EVEN FOR SURVIVAL.

...FOR HOURS AND HOURS.

...IT WAS JUST SUCH A TERRIBLE WAY TO DIE.

BUT...


SO...
...I DECIDED TO INVESTI-GATE.


HOWEVER... THEY NEVER LEFT THEIR POSTS, DOING THEIR BEST TO CONTAIN THE DAMAGE...
...SAVING HUNDREDS OF PLANTS AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HUMANS IN THE PROCESS.
IT CAME FROM A PLANT THAT WENT OUT OF CONTROL, AN ACCIDENT CAUSED BY THE HUMANS THEM-SELVES.
EVEN-TUALLY...
...I FOUND THE SOURCE OF THE CONTAMI-NATION.

UNDER-STAND WHAT?
THAT YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO EXCUSE THEIR WRETCHED WAY OF LIFE?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND...
...KNIVES?
AND THERE IT IS...
...THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT VILLAGE THAT WE NEVER KNEW.

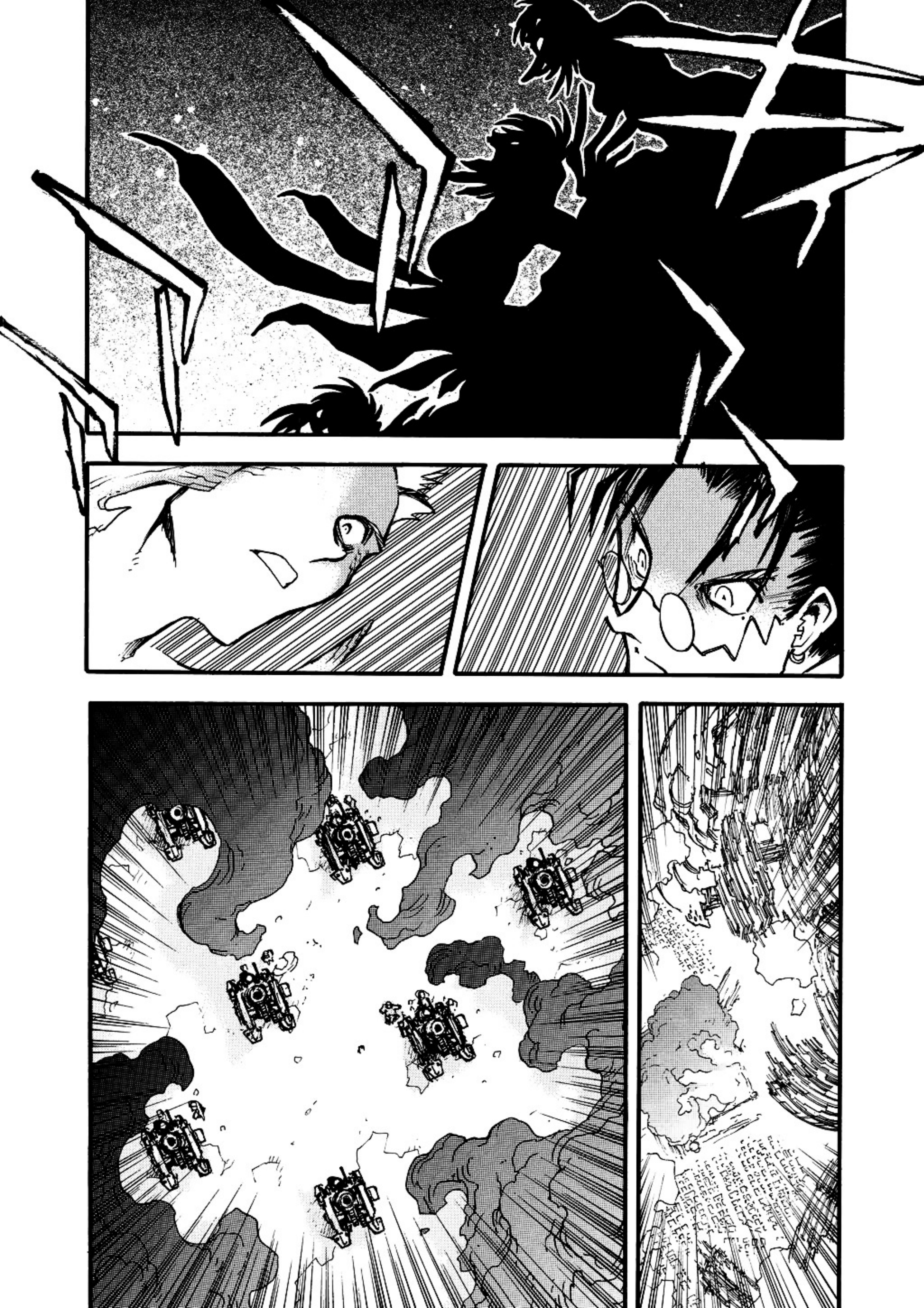
NO!
AND...
HOW LITTLE WE KNOW!
...HOW EASILY YOU GO ON FORGETTING THAT FACT!
I WILL NOT ALLOW IT!
YOU'RE IGNORANT, AND YET YOU STILL ARROGANTLY POINT THE FINGER.

KNIVES!

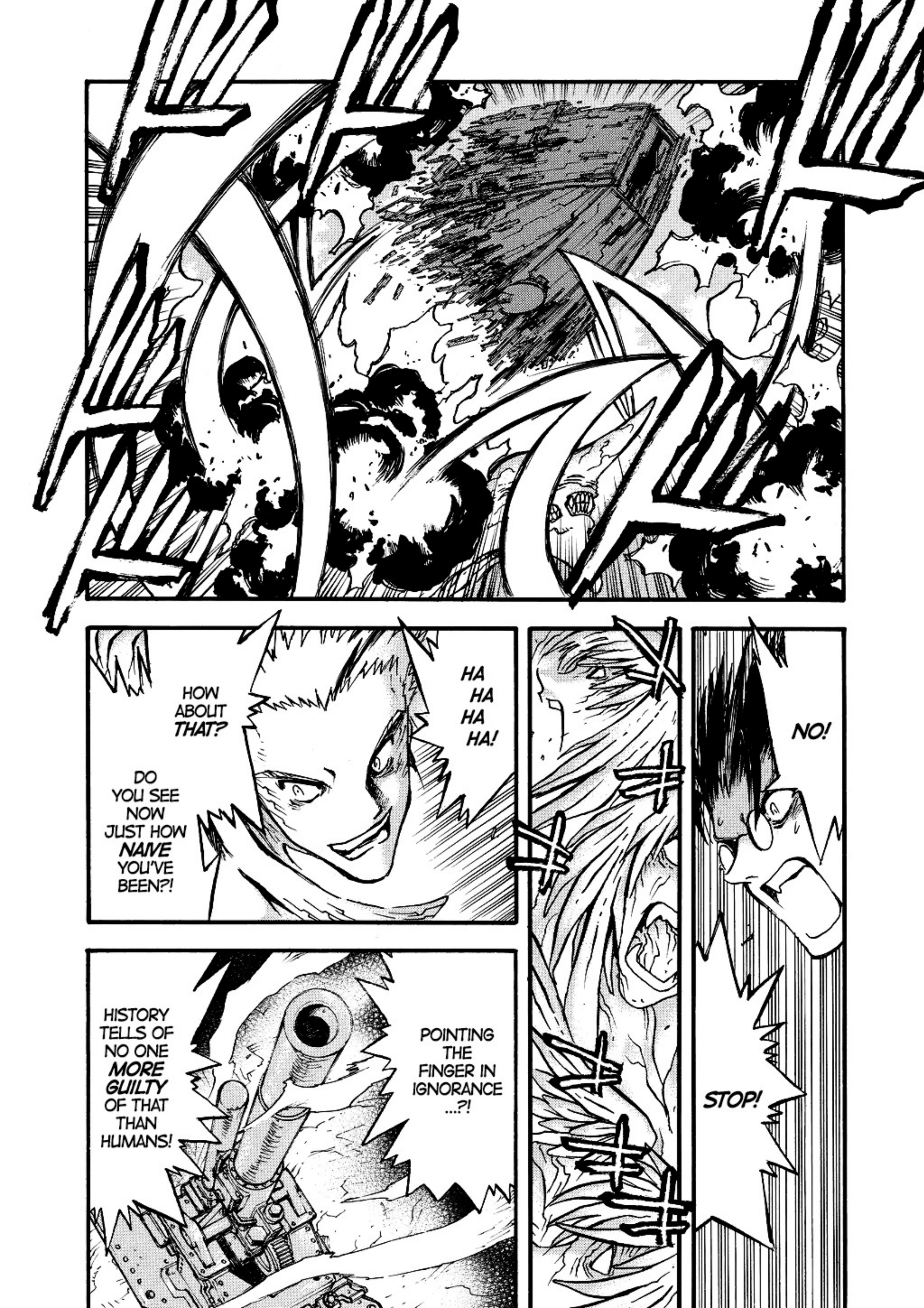
NOW I FINALLY UNDER-STAND...
...WHY YOU WEAR THAT COAT AND LIVE AMONG THE HUMANS.

THAT'S IT.

...YOU FRANTICALLY AVOID MAKING THAT FINAL DECISION TO KILL, EVEN WHEN FACING DEATH.
WHY...
HOW-EVER...
AND THAT IS--
...YOU'RE OVERLOOKING ONE CRUCIAL FACT.



FIRE!


HOW ABOUT THAT?
HA HA HA HA!
DO YOU SEE NOW JUST HOW NAIVE YOU'VE BEEN?!
NO!
STOP!
HISTORY TELLS OF NO ONE MORE GUILTY OF THAT THAN HUMANS!
POINTING THE FINGER IN IGNORANCE ...?!

AND THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO SAVE THEM!

THEY ARE PESTS!

AH!
AA AAA
AAAAAAAHH!!!

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

WHAT A SHAME.

YOU...

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!

...

...

HEH HEH HEH HEH

READY...

I JUST WON-DER...

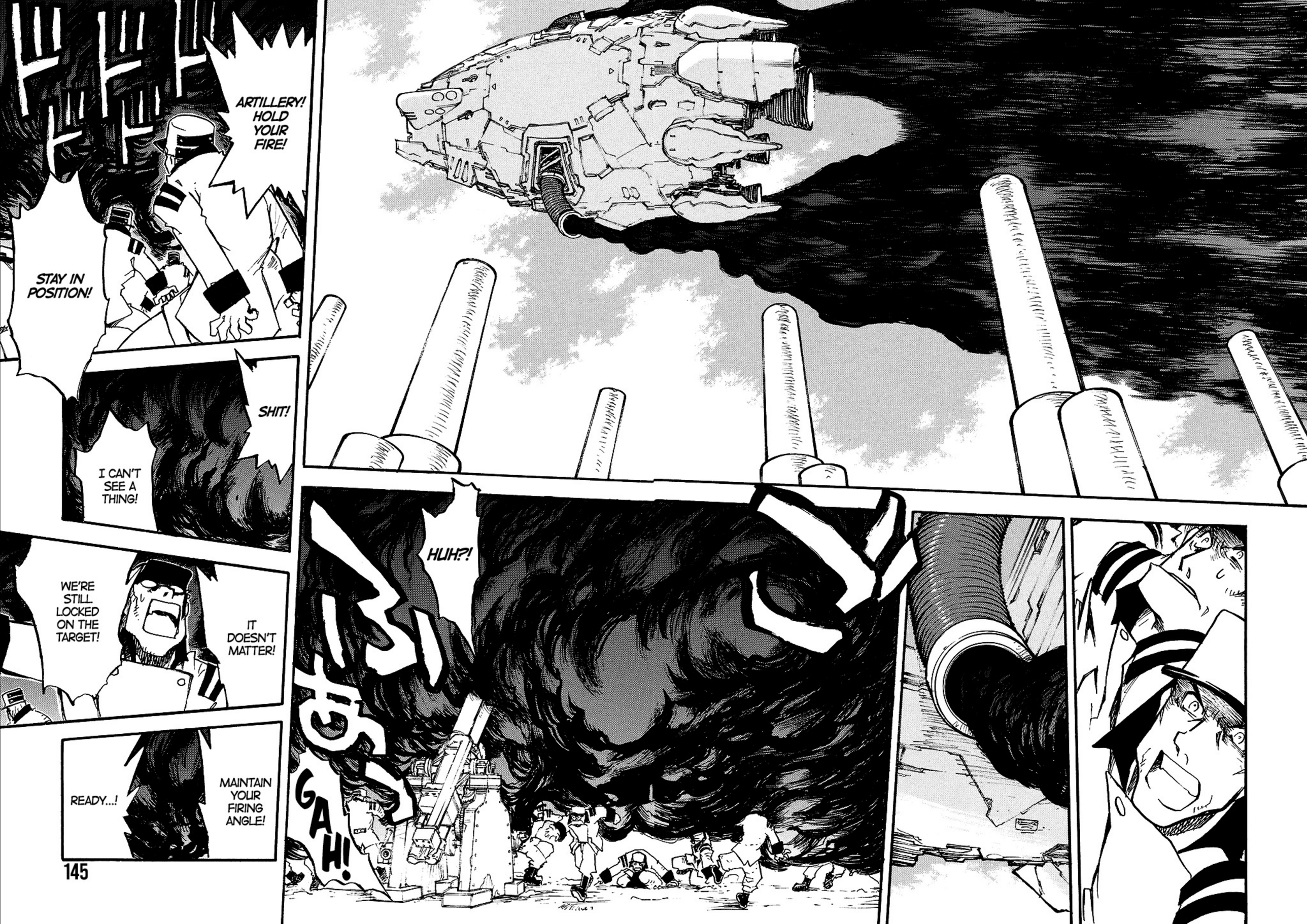
...HOW LONG YOU CAN KEEP THIS UP.

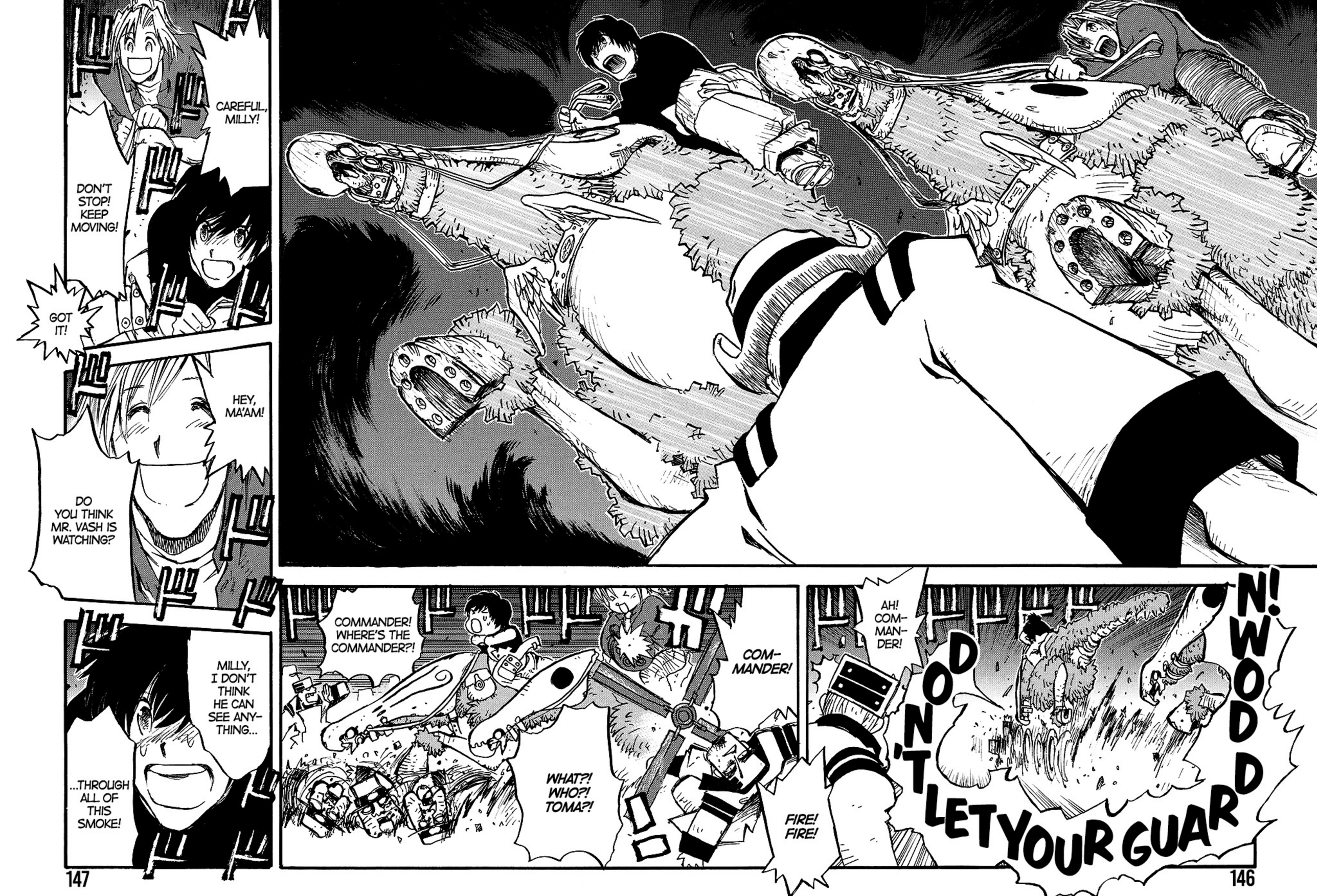
COME ON.

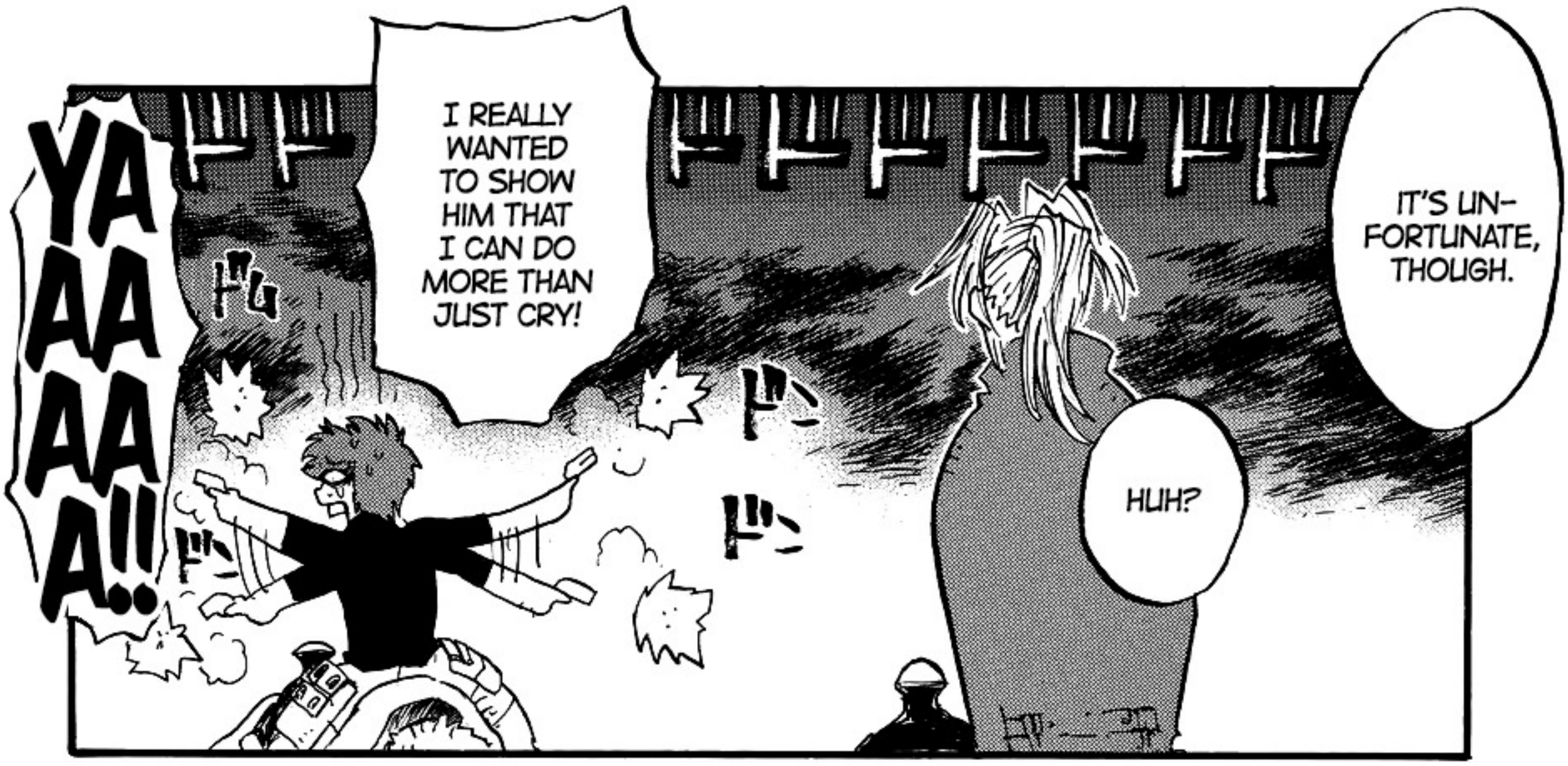
ANOTHER BARRAGE IS COMING. LET ME SEE YOU STOP IT.

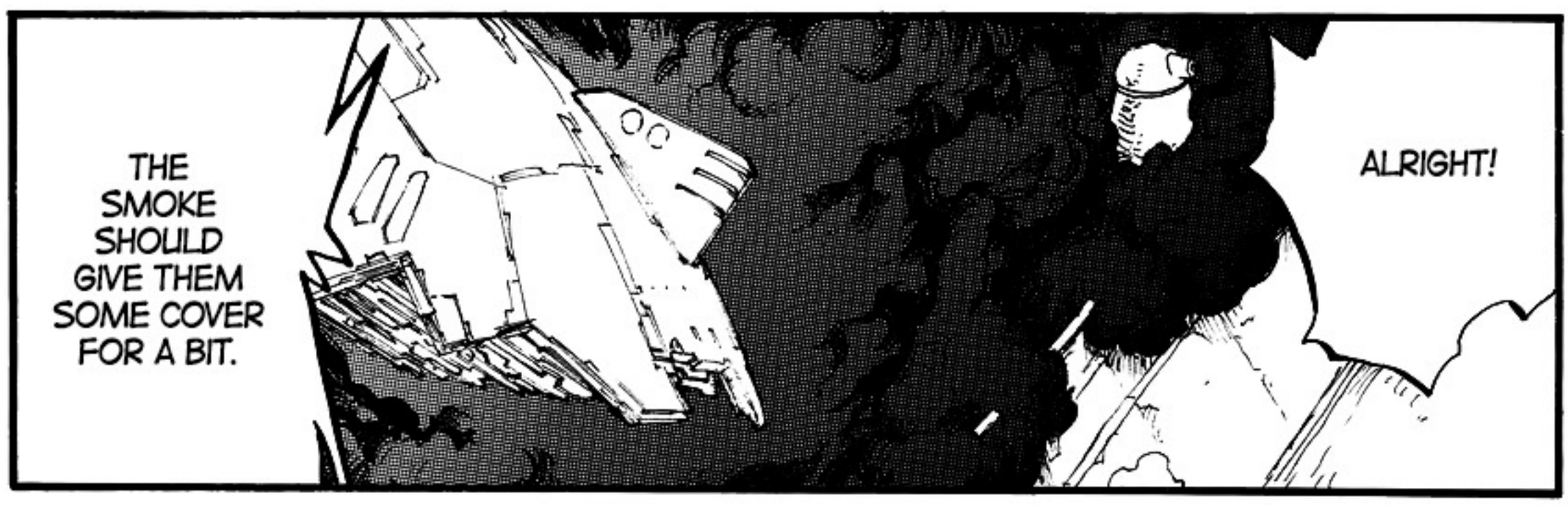
NOW YOU'LL BE FORCED TO USE *TWICE* AS MUCH AMMUNI-TION.

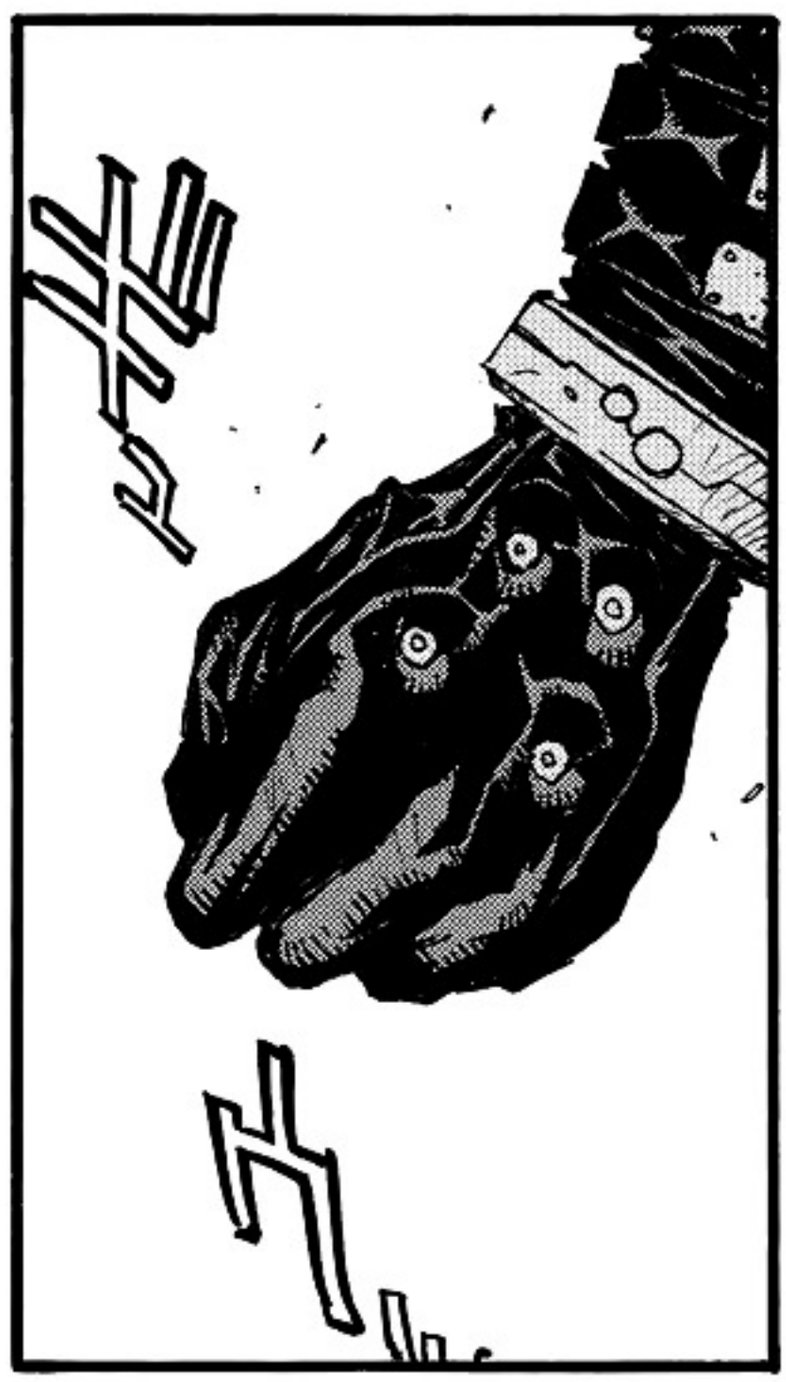
...HAVE BEEN *ABAN-DONED.*


ARTILLERY! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
STAY IN POSITION!
SHIT!
I CAN'T SEE A THING!
WE'RE STILL LOCKED ON THE TARGET!
IT DOESN'T MATTER!
READY...!
MAINTAIN YOUR FIRING ANGLE!
HUH?!
GAH!

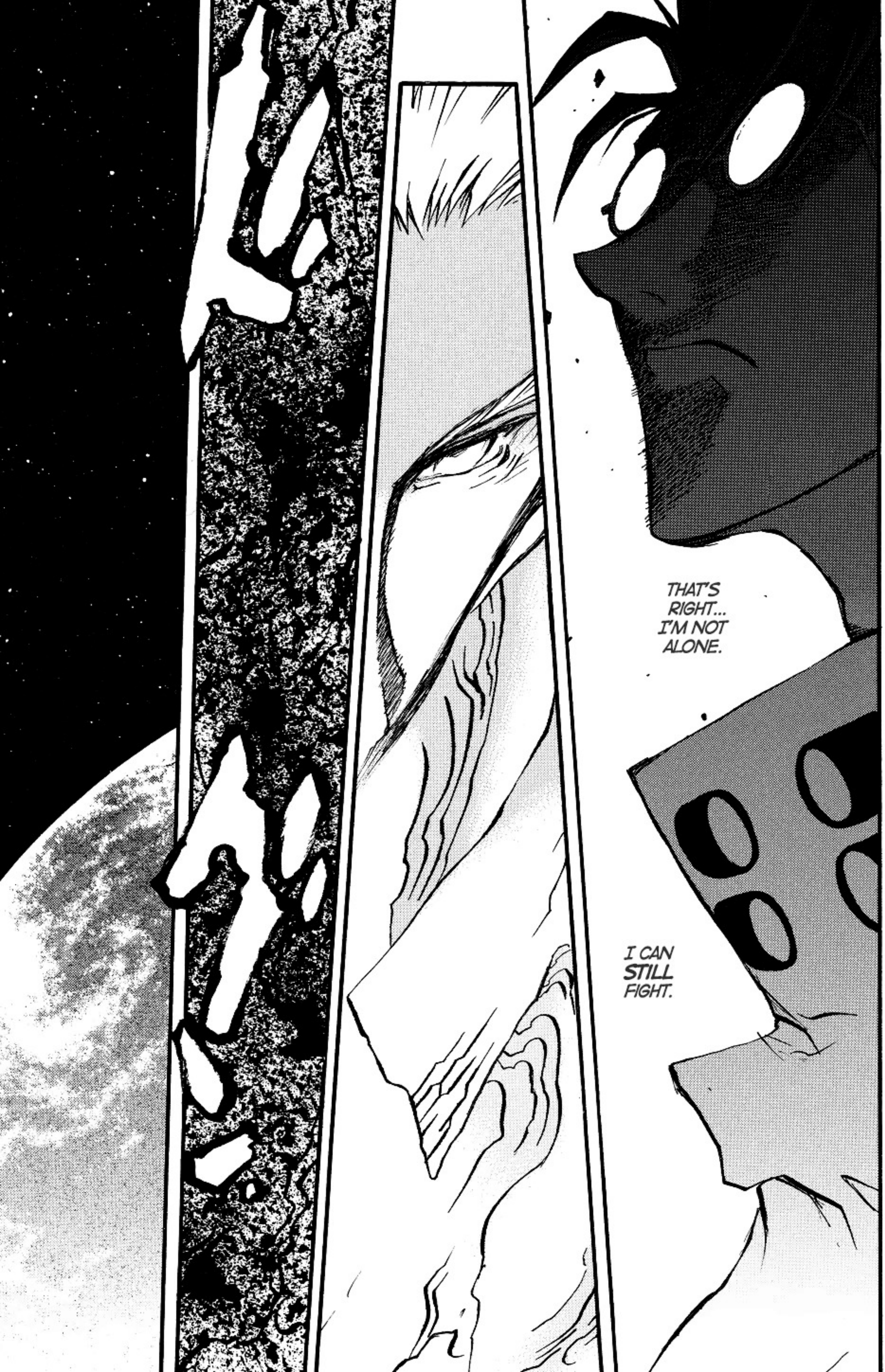

CAREFUL, MILLY!
DON'T STOP! KEEP MOVING!
GOT IT!
HEY, MA'AM!
DO YOU THINK MR. VASH IS WATCHING?
MILLY, I DON'T THINK HE CAN SEE ANY-THING...
...THROUGH ALL OF THIS SMOKE!
COMMANDER! WHERE'S THE COMMANDER?!
WHAT?! WHO?! TOMA?!
COM-MANDER!
FIRE! FIRE!
AH! COM-MAN-DER!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

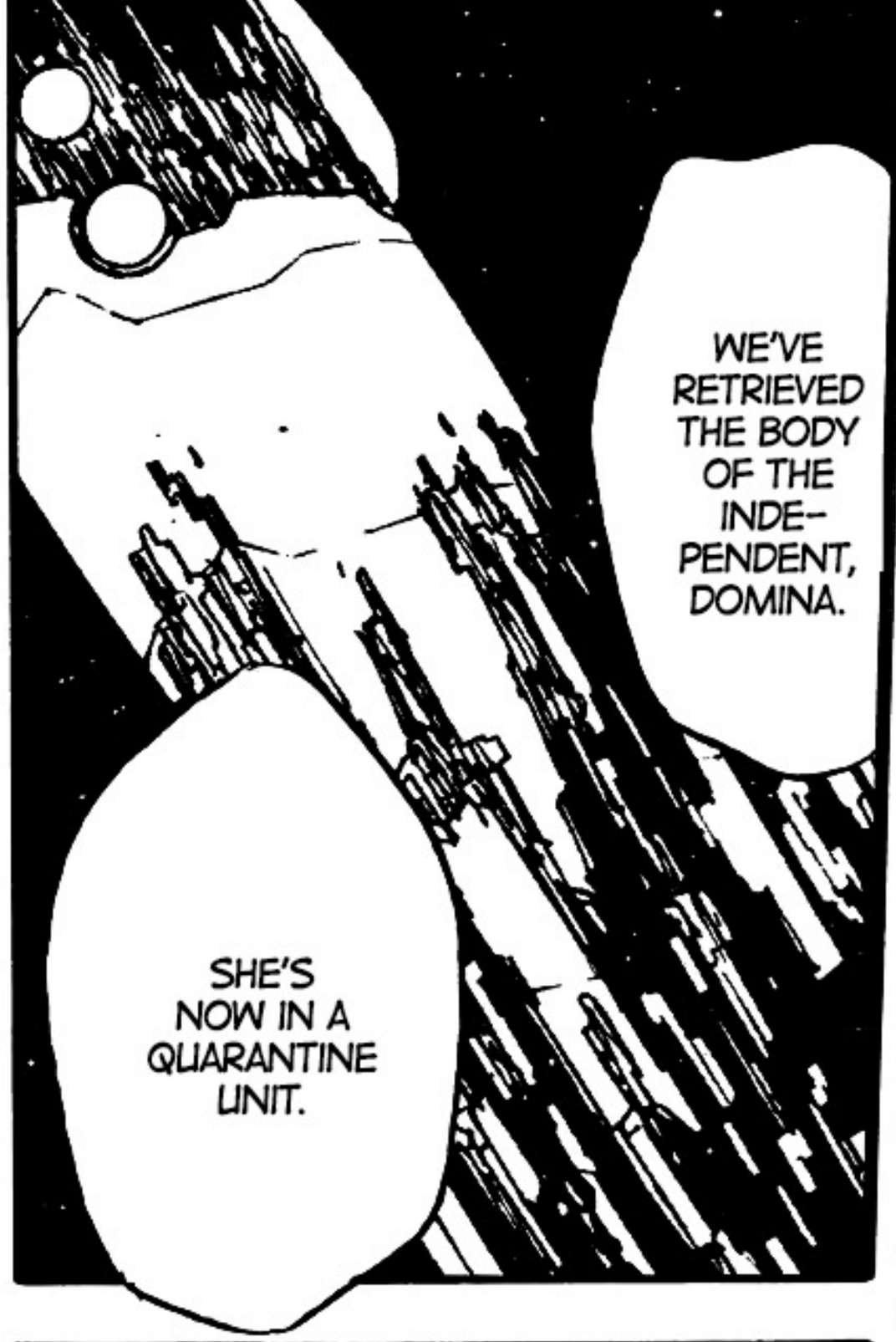

YAAAAAA!!
I REALLY WANTED TO SHOW HIM THAT I CAN DO MORE THAN JUST CRY!
IT'S UN-FORTUNATE, THOUGH.
HUH?

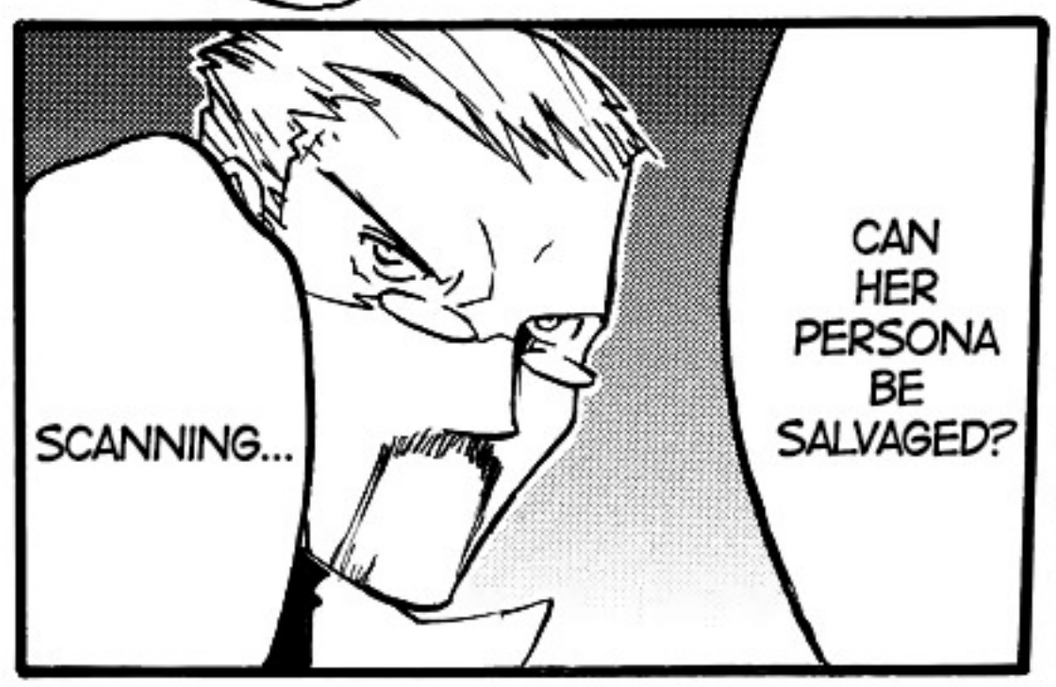

THE SMOKE SHOULD GIVE THEM SOME COVER FOR A BIT.
ALRIGHT!



...
...
...IT WAS THE BEST I COULD COME UP WITH...
I'M SORRY!

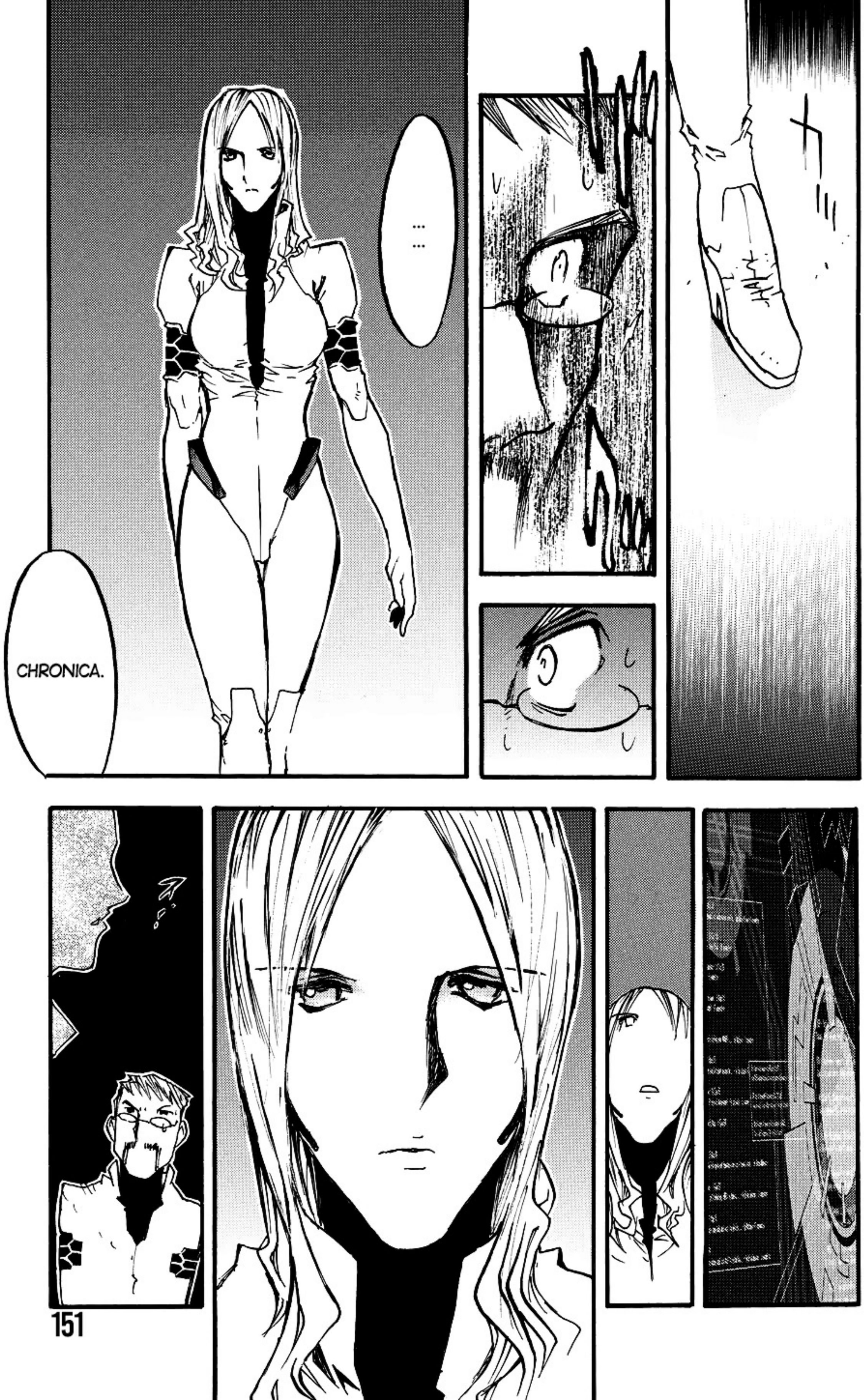

THAT'S RIGHT... I'M NOT ALONE.
I CAN STILL FIGHT.

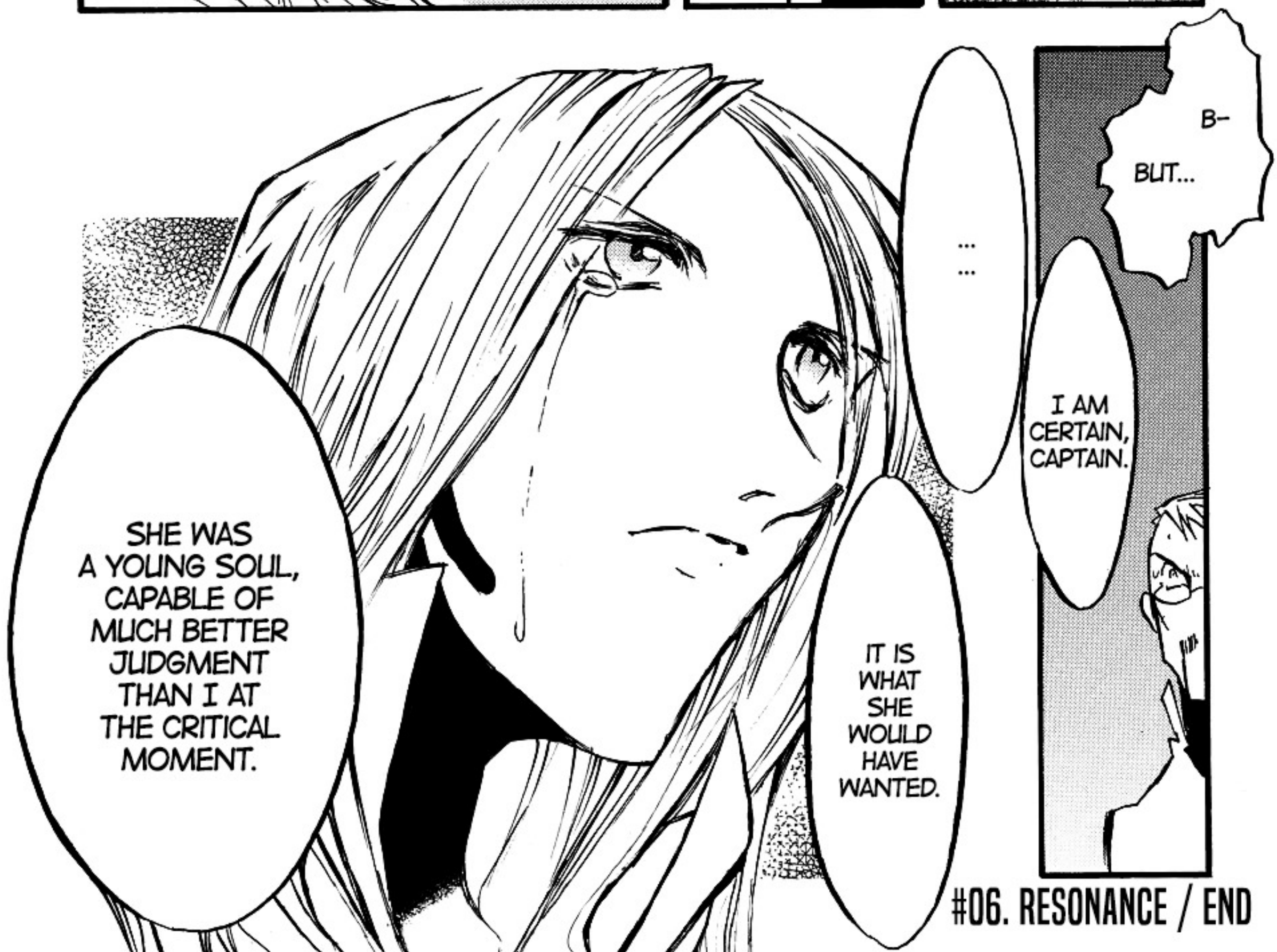

WE'VE RETRIEVED THE BODY OF THE INDE-PENDENT, DOMINA.
SHE'S NOW IN A QUARANTINE UNIT.


CAN HER PERSONA BE SALVAGED?
SCANNING...

ONLY A 0.03% CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
SHE'S ALMOST COMPLETELY FUSED.
A FULL REPAIR WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.

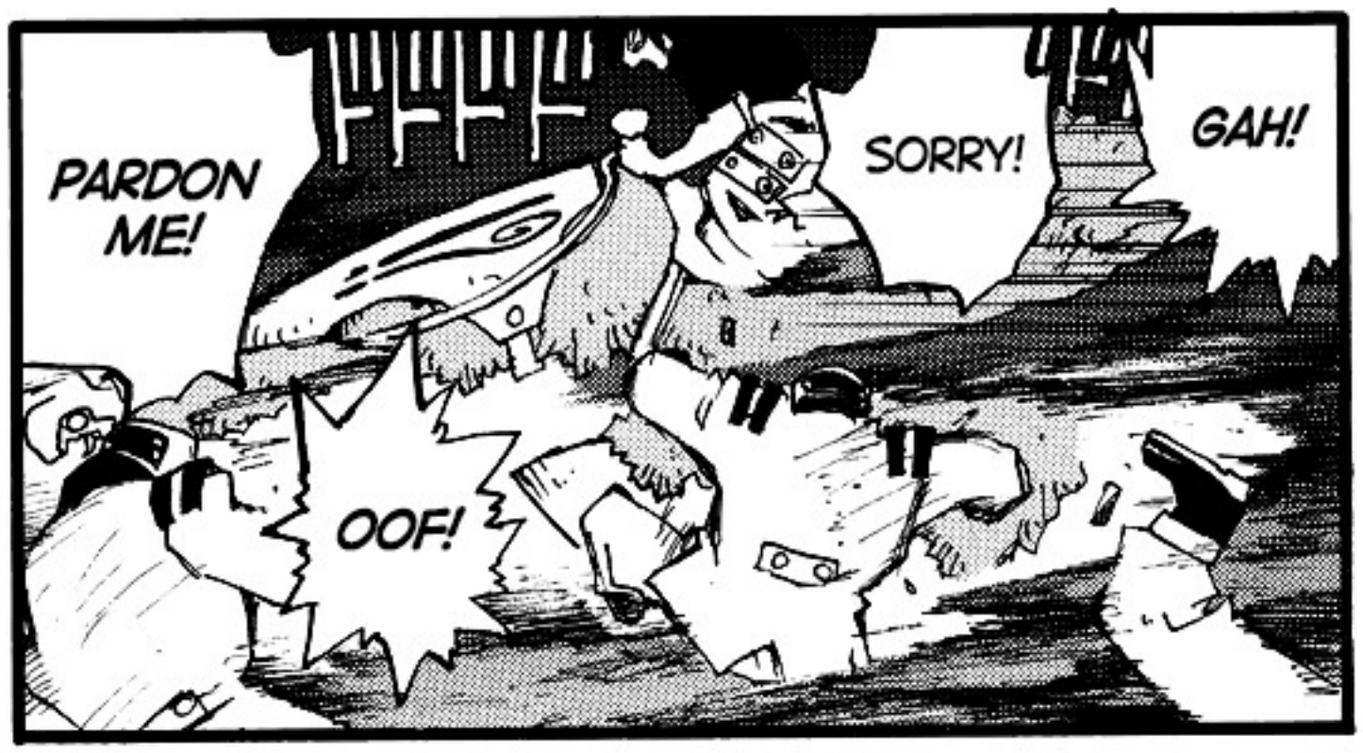
STATUS REPORT.

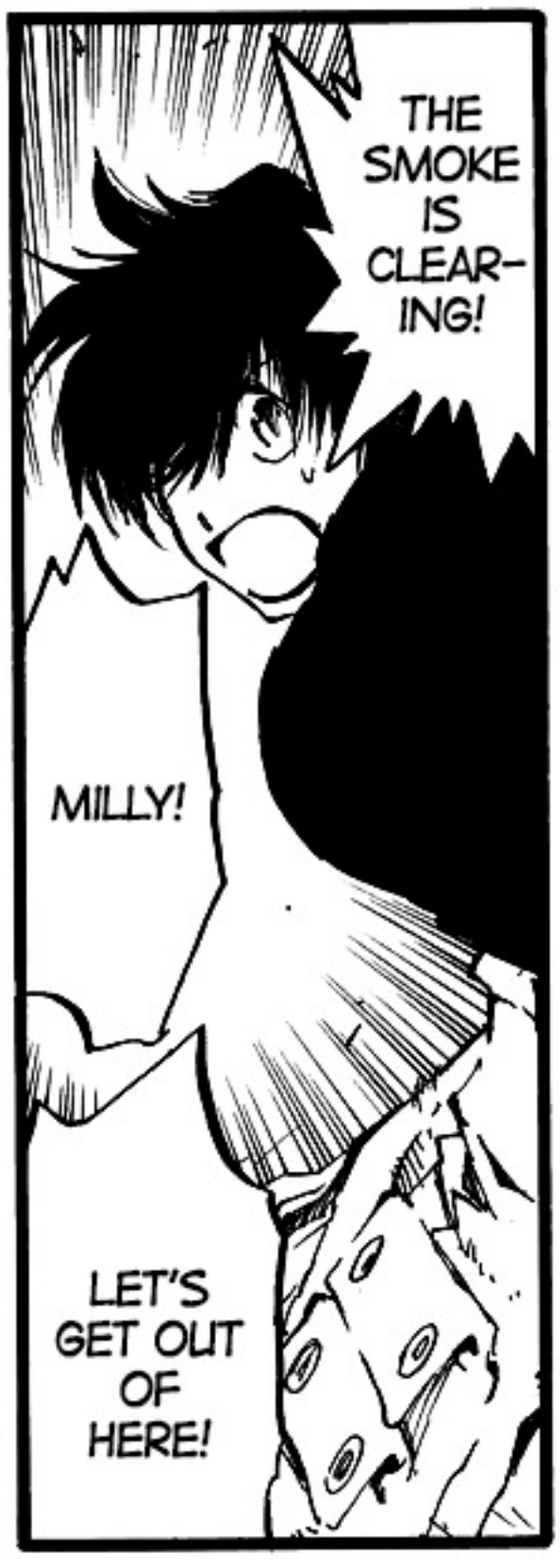

……
CHRONICA.



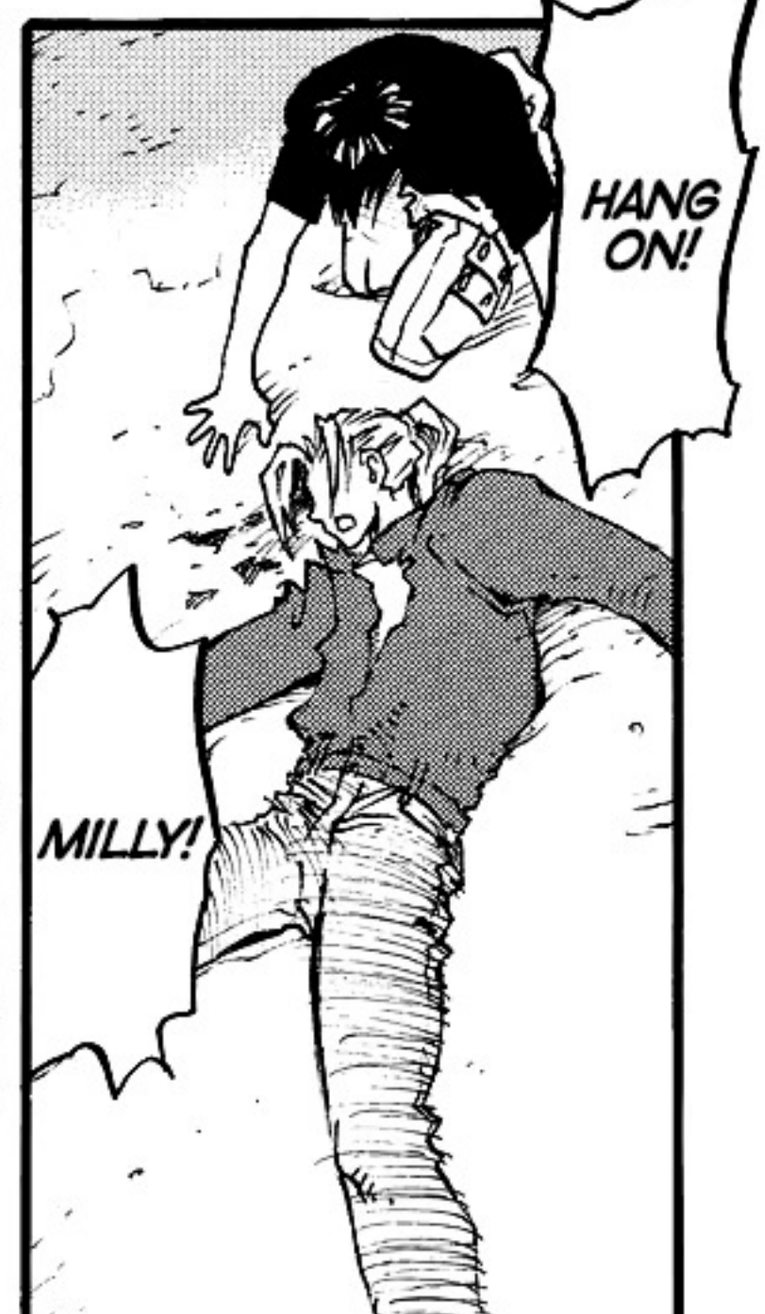
#06. RESONANCE / END

#07. RUN, LIVIO, RUN

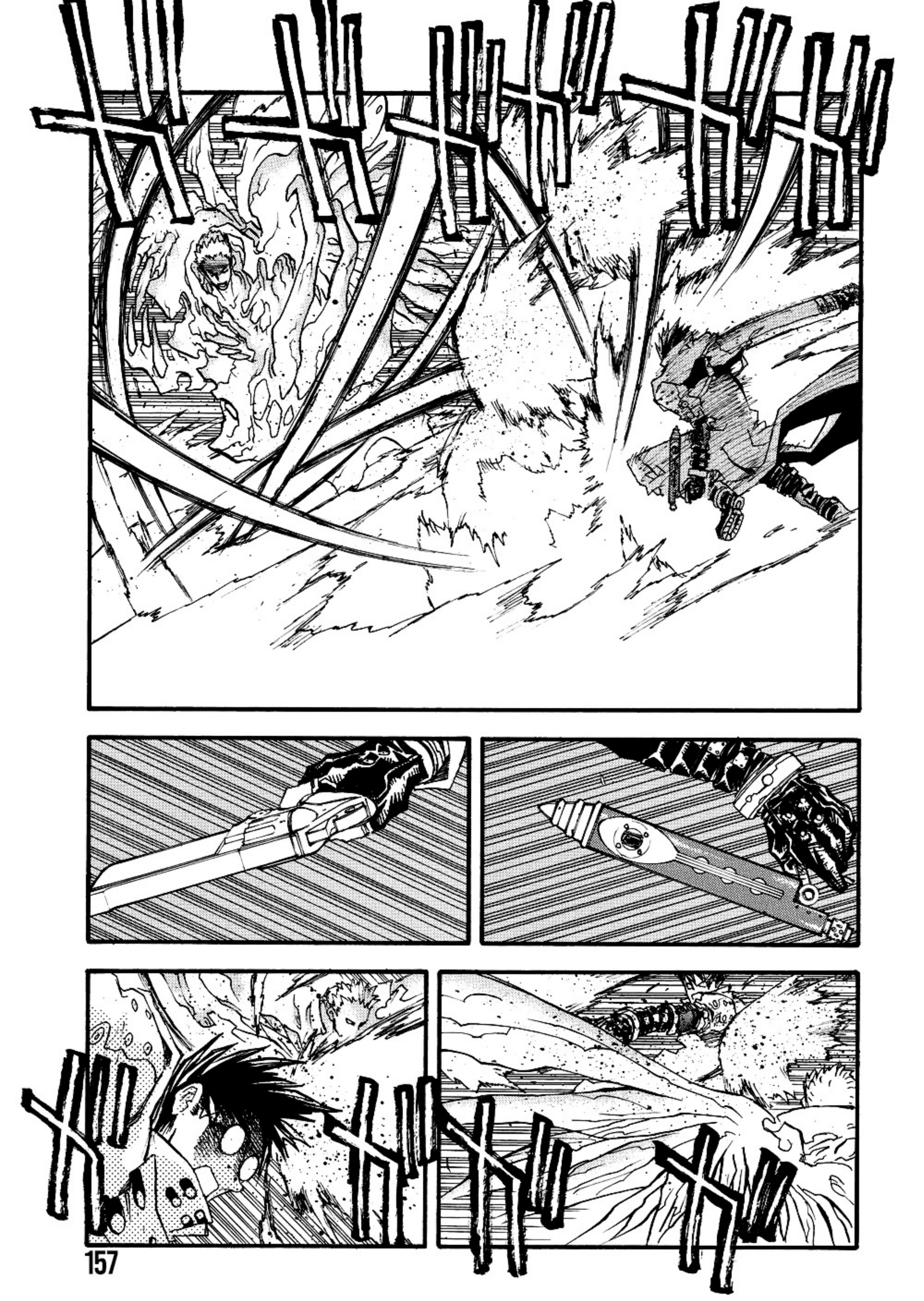


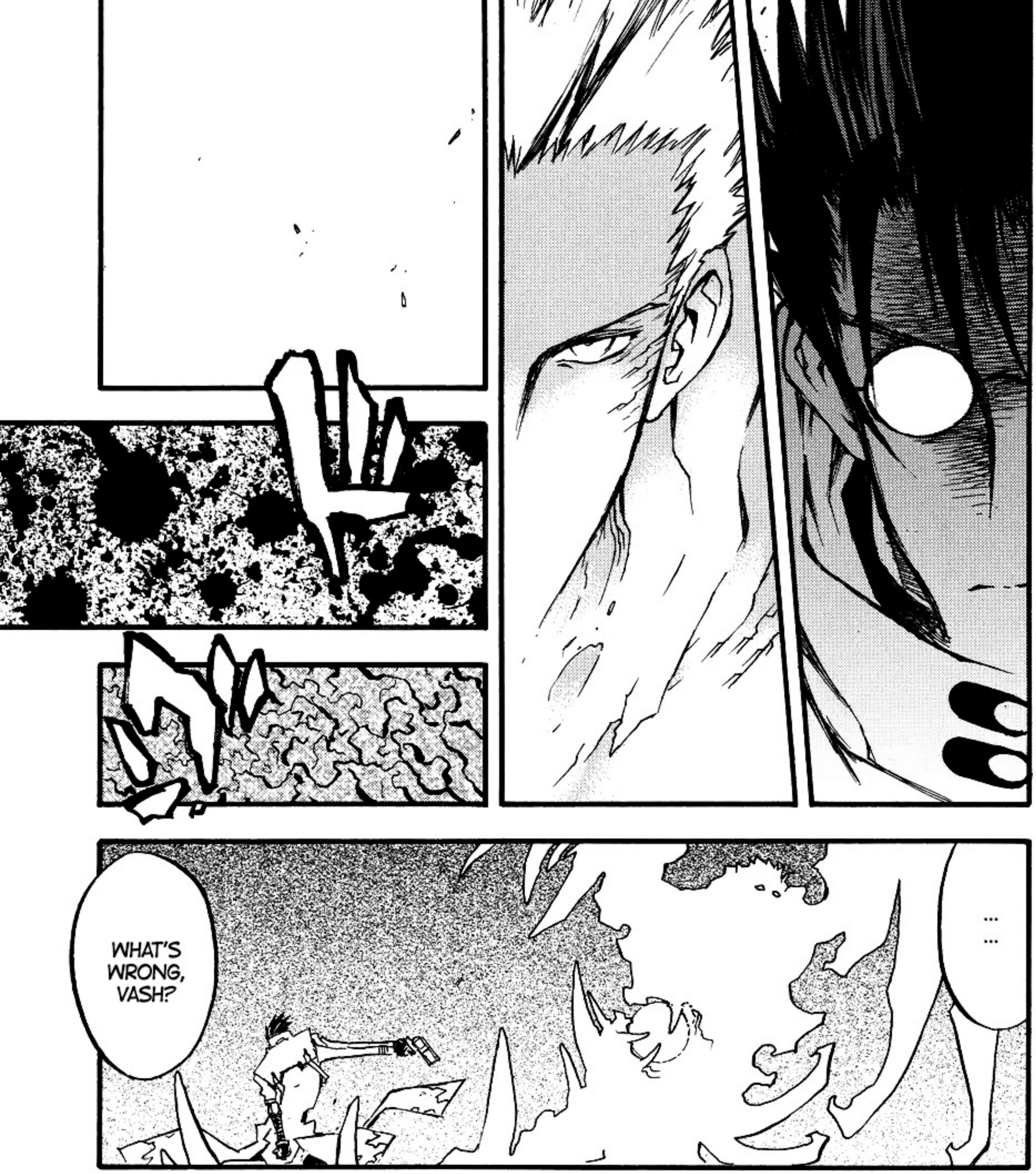


MILLY!!!

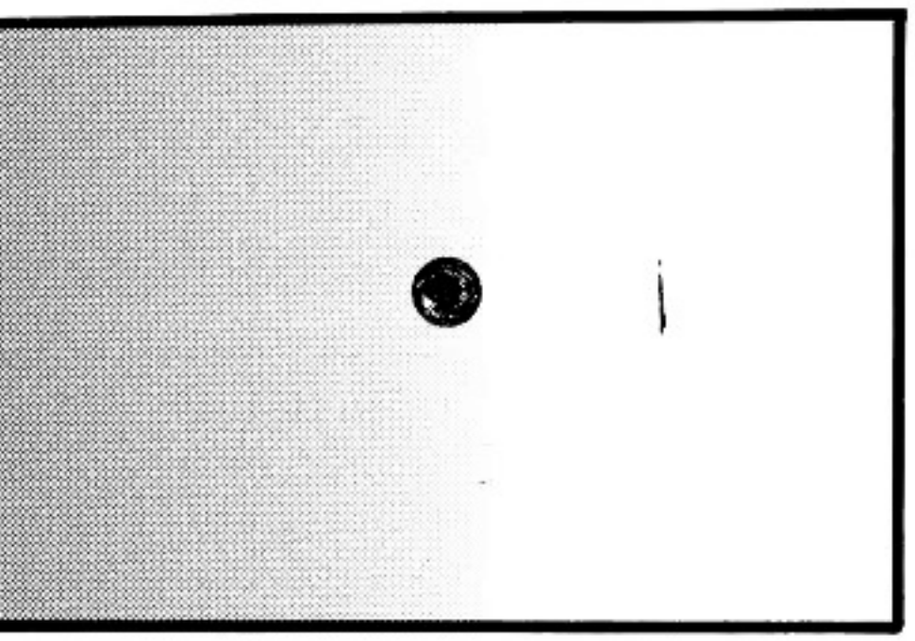


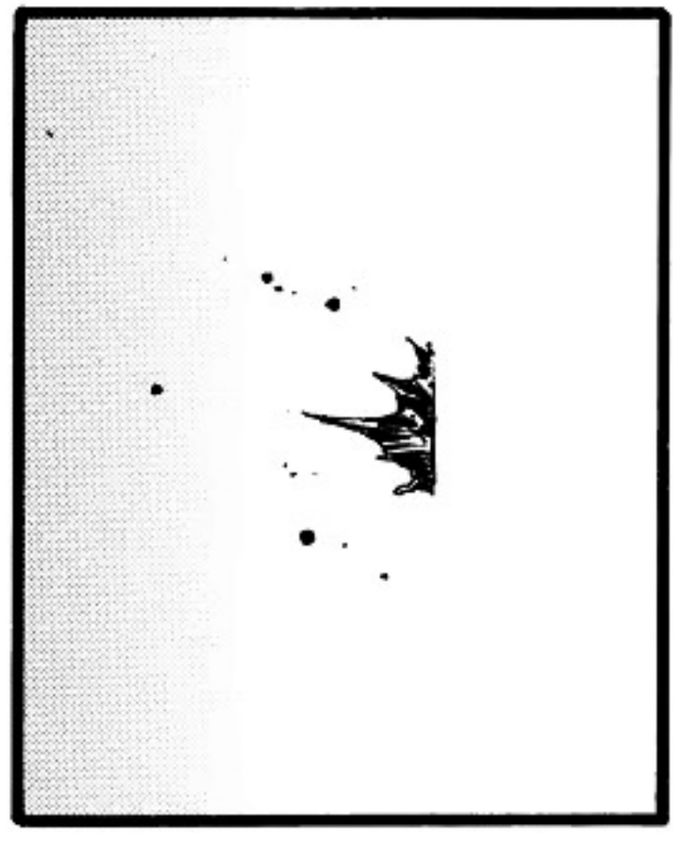
SHOOT THEM.
I DON'T CARE.
NGH!
HNNNGH!
!!

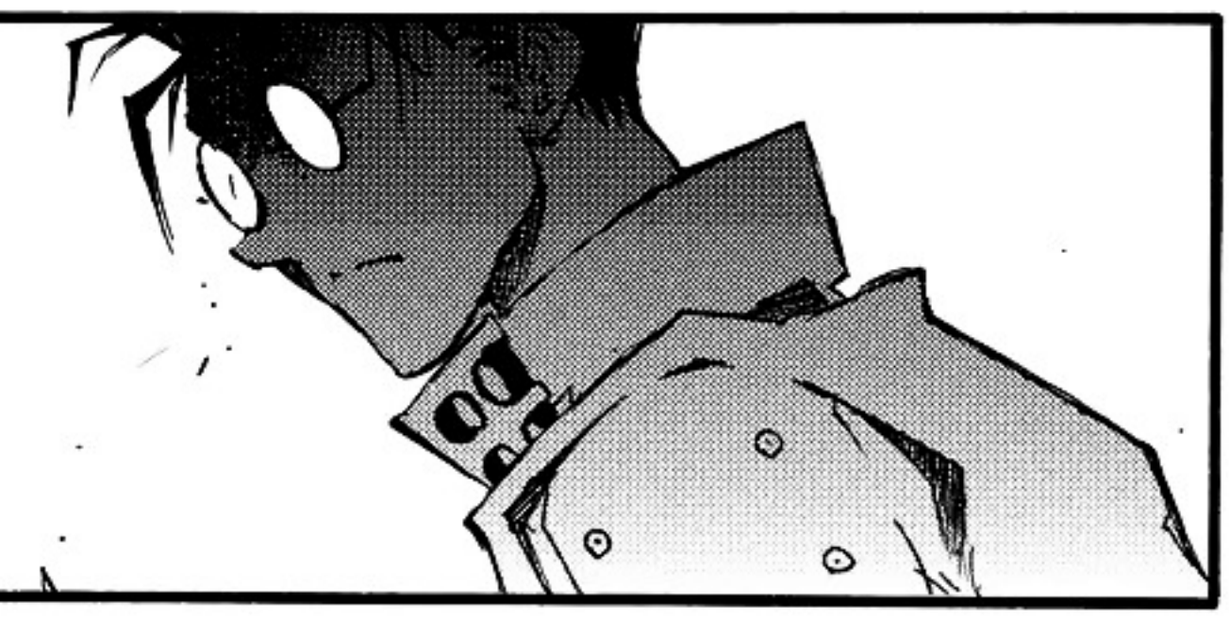


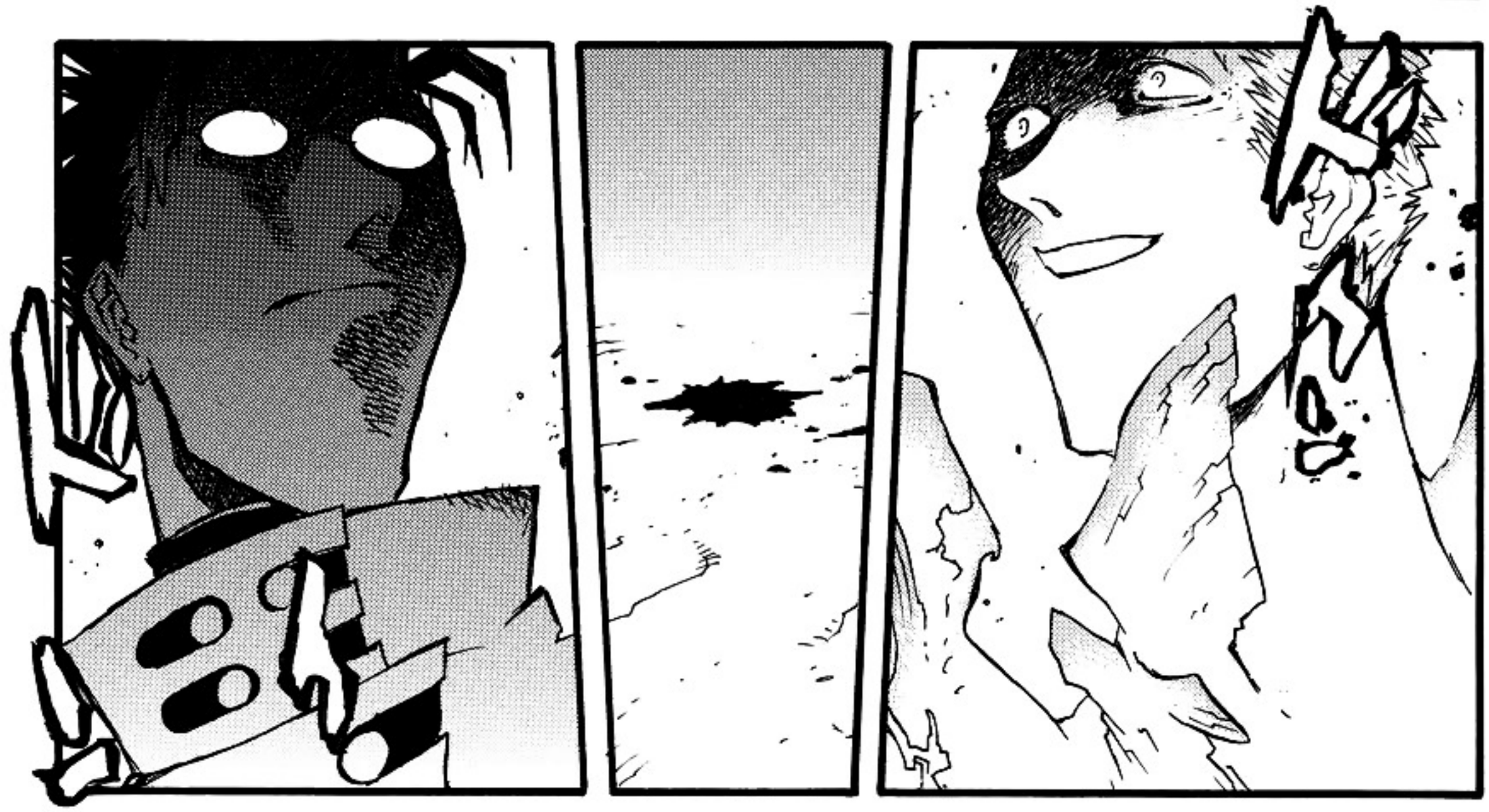

WHAT'S WRONG, VASH?
...
...
IF YOU'RE FEELING CHATTY, THEN BY ALL MEANS, LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.
OH YEAH?
YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET.

ie?

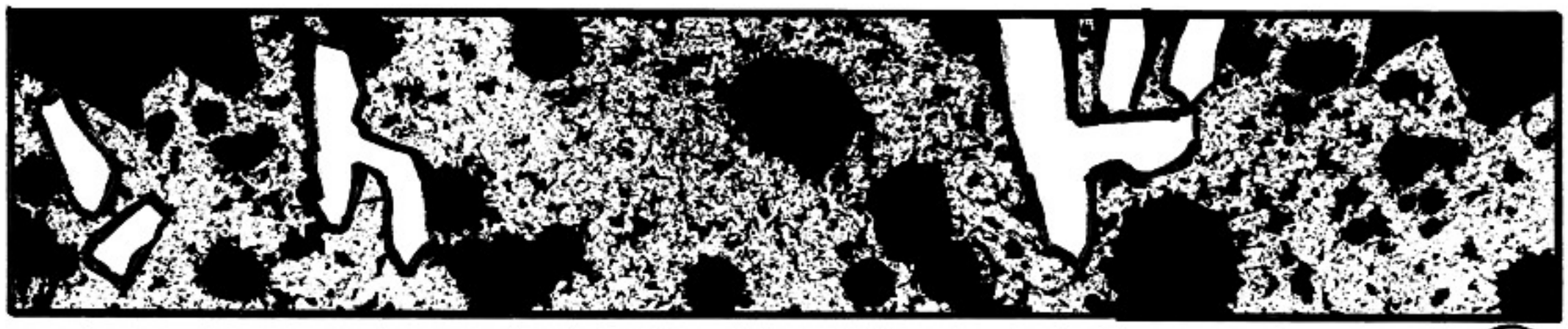








YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT FOR CONVERSATION.
AH, I SEE.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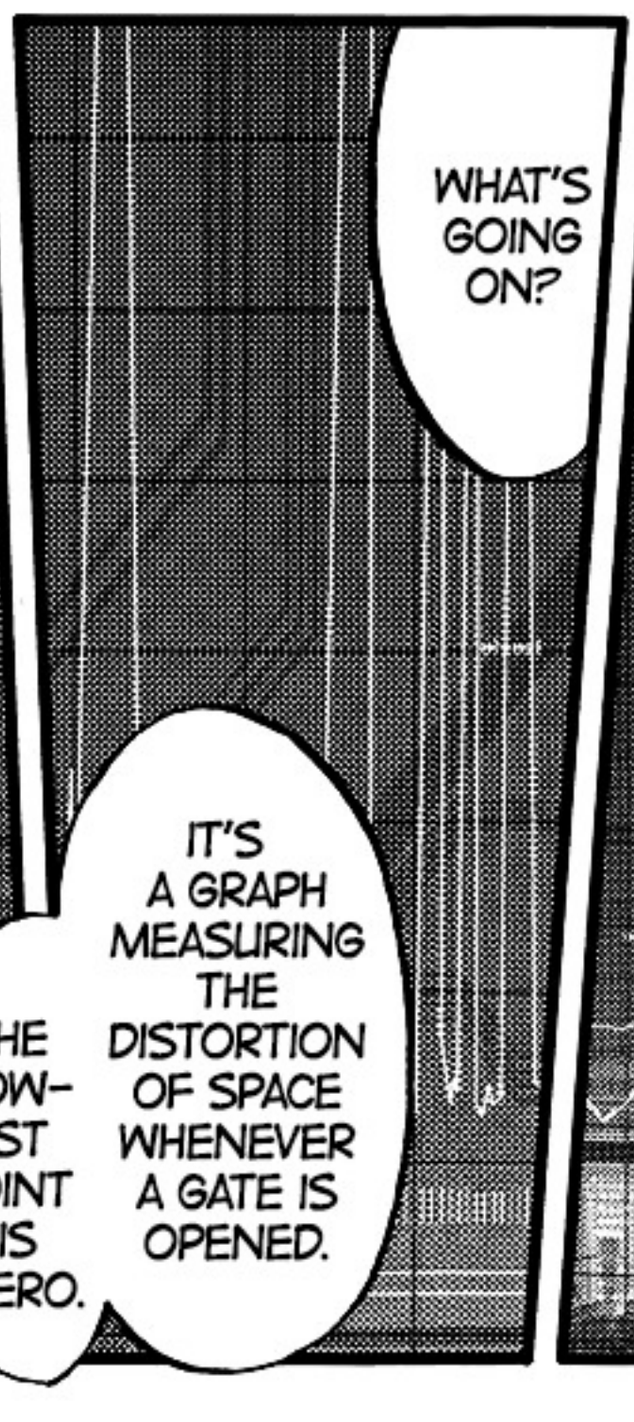
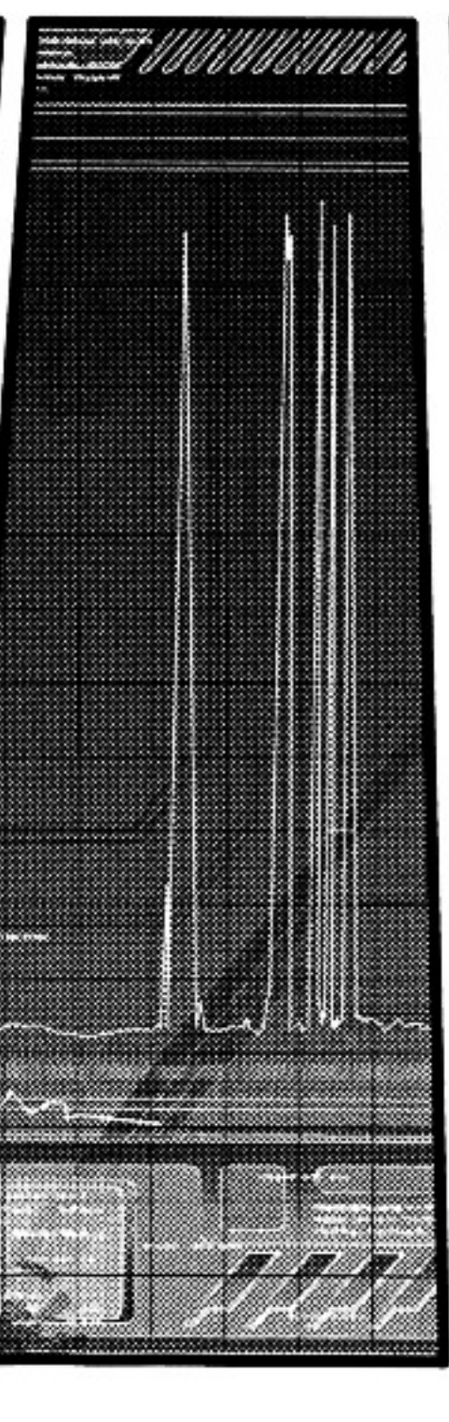
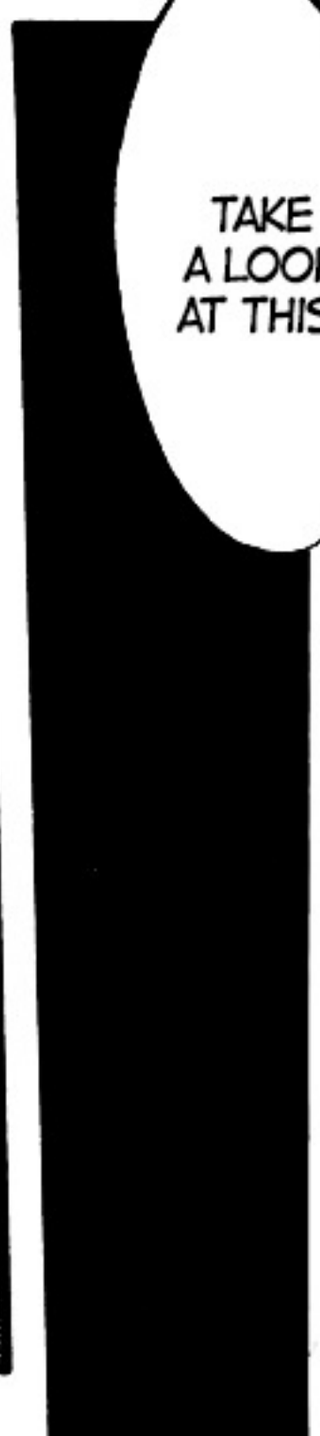
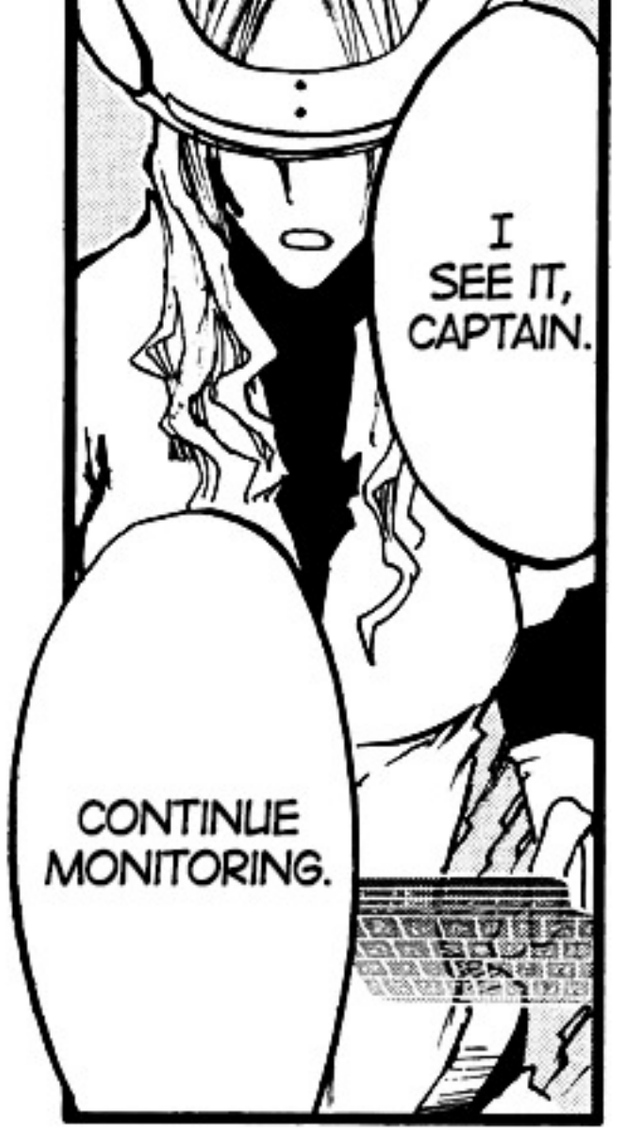
FOR AN INSTANT, IT JUMPS COMPLETELY OFF THE SCALE...
...AND THEN RETURNS TO A FLAT ZERO RIGHT AWAY.

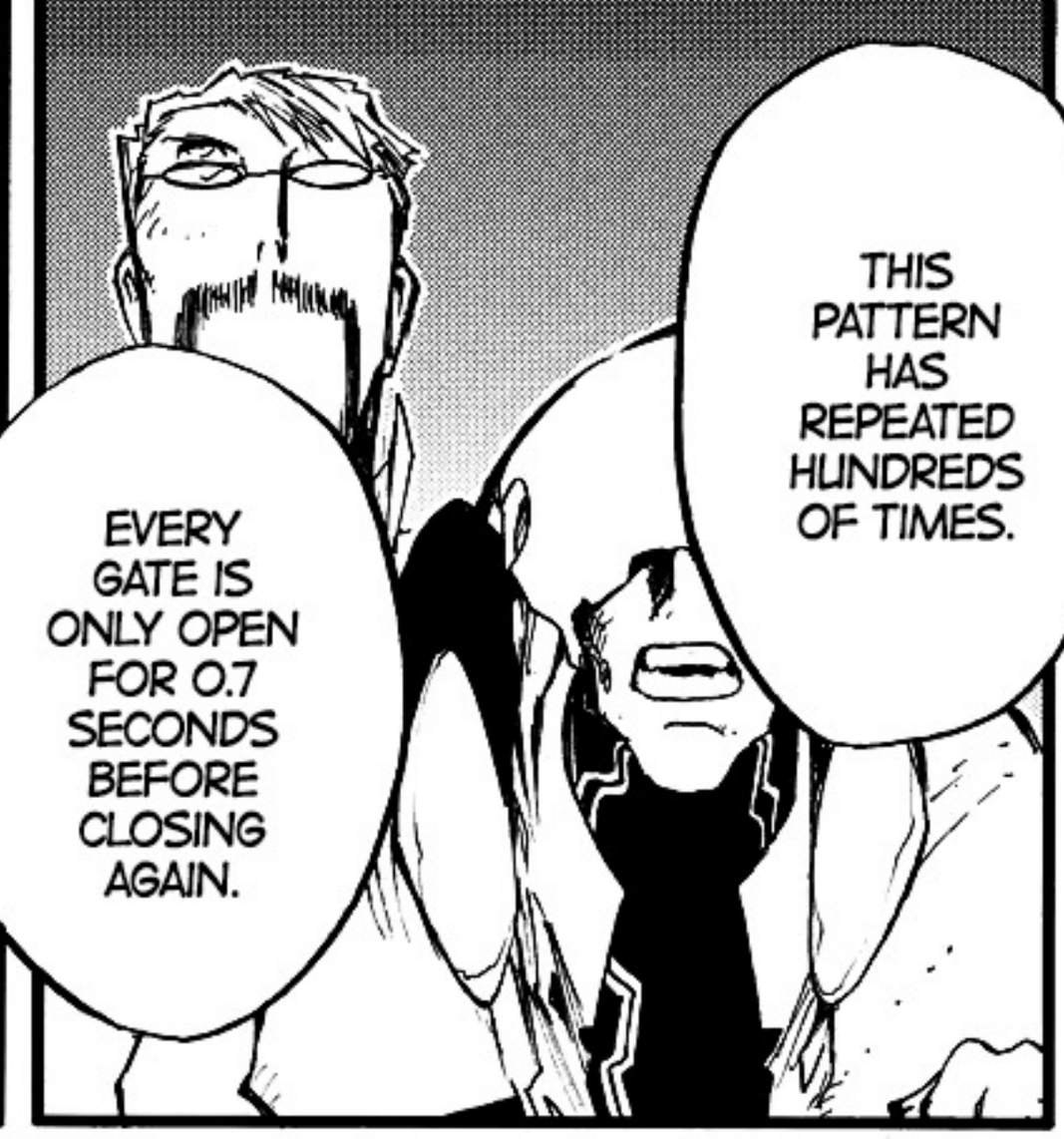

WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S A GRAPH MEASURING THE DISTORTION OF SPACE WHENEVER A GATE IS OPENED.
THE LOW-EST POINT IS ZERO.

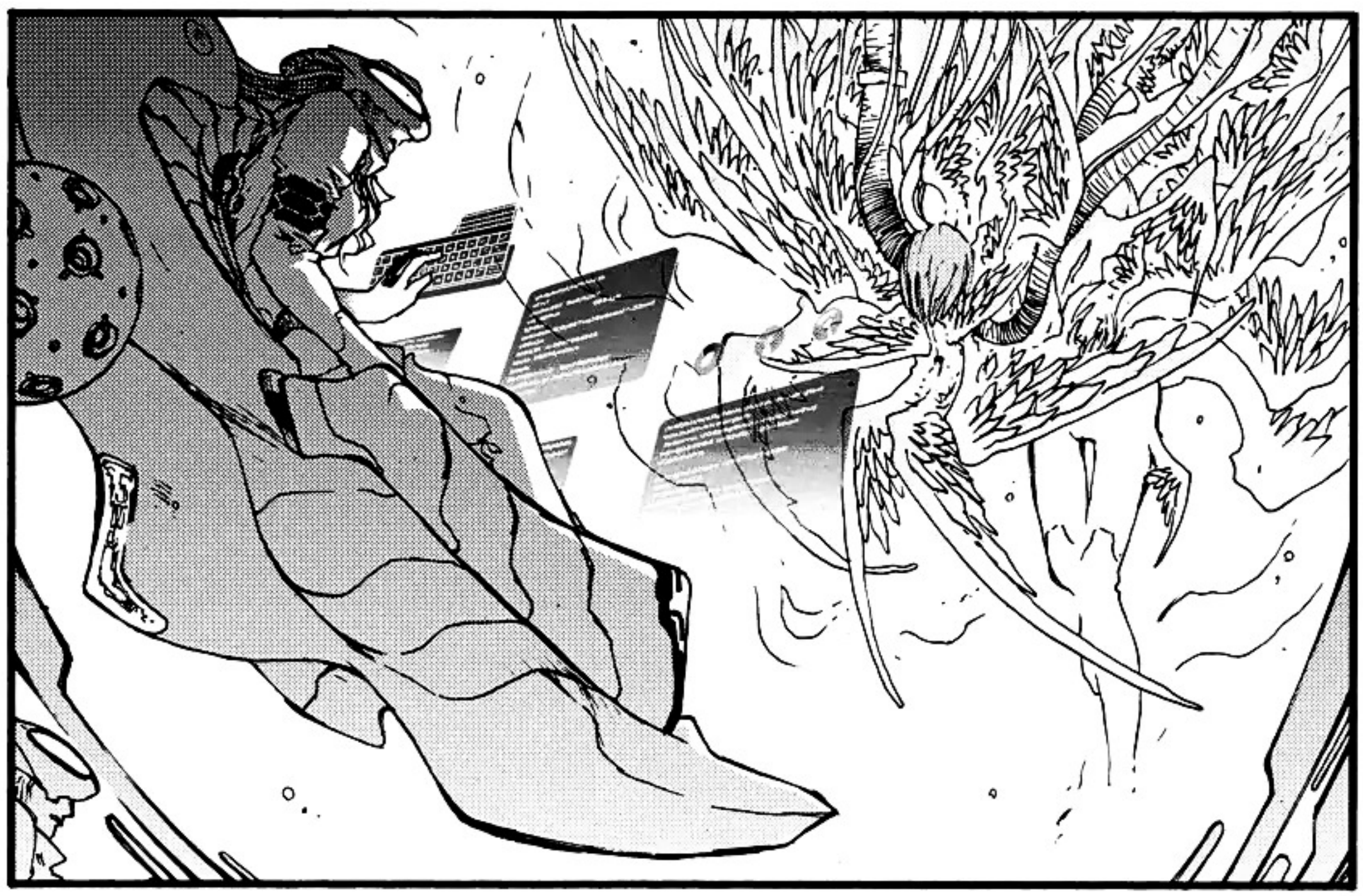



TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

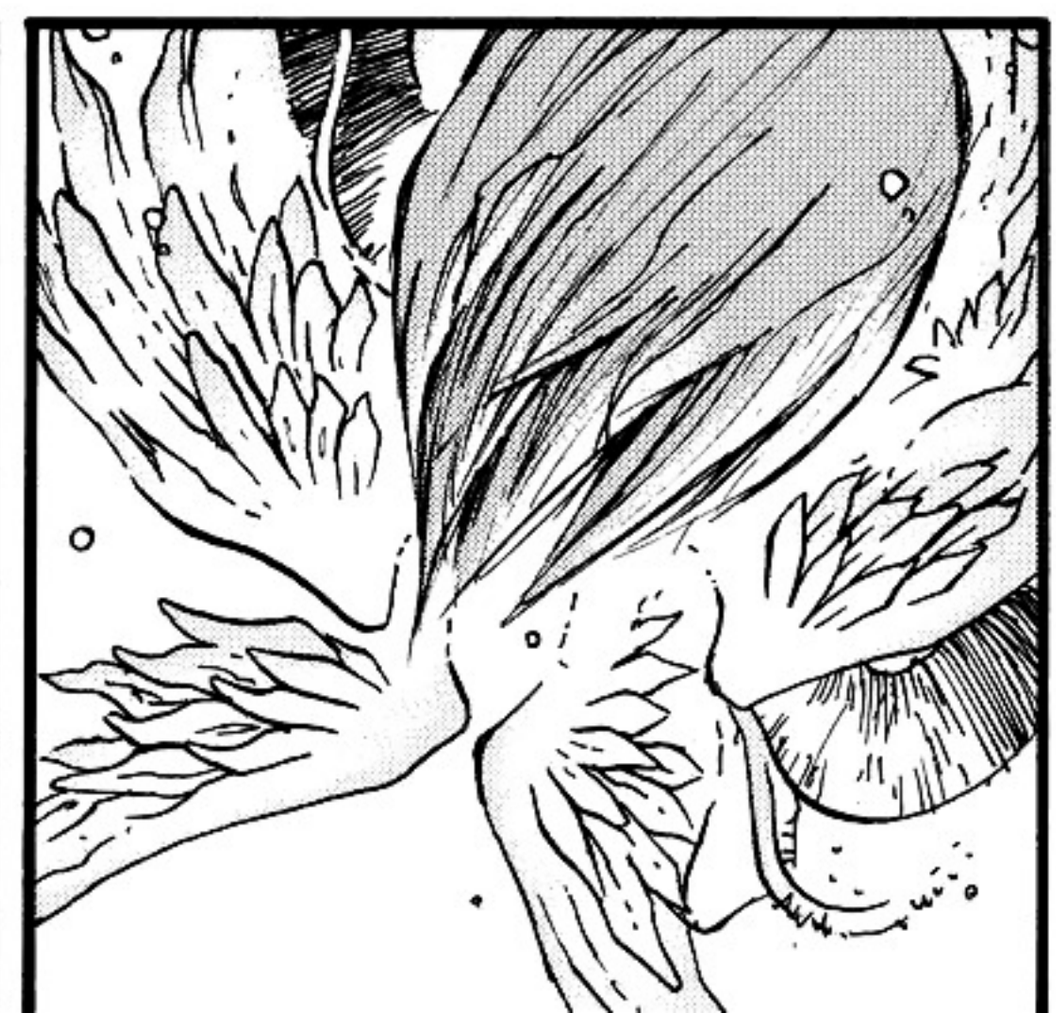

I SEE IT, CAPTAIN.
CONTINUE MONITORING.

CHRON-ICA?


EVERY GATE IS ONLY OPEN FOR 0.7 SECONDS BEFORE CLOSING AGAIN.
THIS PATTERN HAS REPEATED HUNDREDS OF TIMES.



THE RELEASE OF BRAVERY II SEEMED LIKE AN UN-EXPECTED OUTCOME.
SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY GOING ON DOWN THERE.

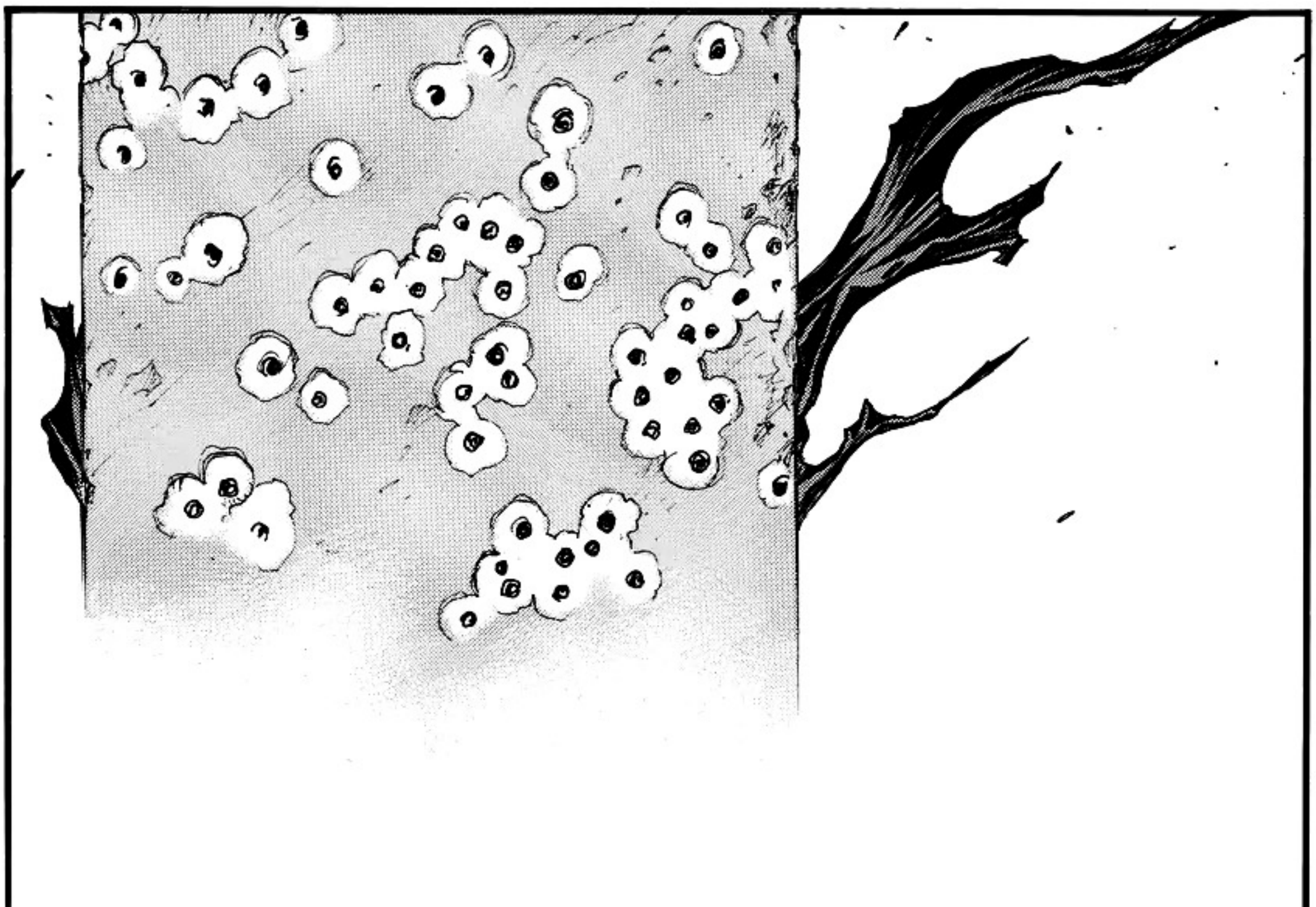


I WILL EXPOSE THEM.

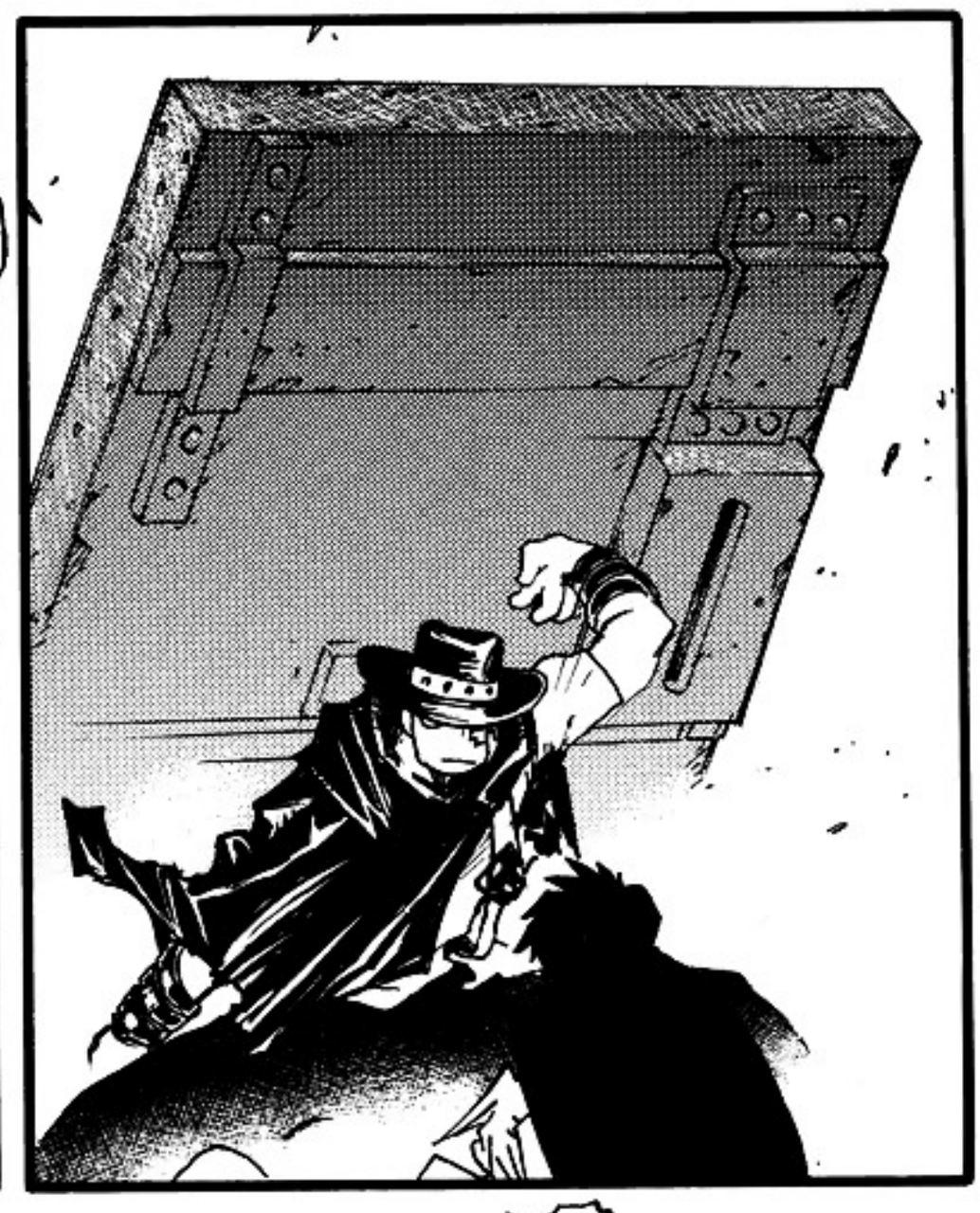
I WILL MAKE THEM REGRET EVER STARTING THIS CONFLICT.

I PROMISE YOU!...

...DOMINA!



AH.
IT'S YOU.



I'M MESSIN' THIS UP.
!!
DAMMIT.

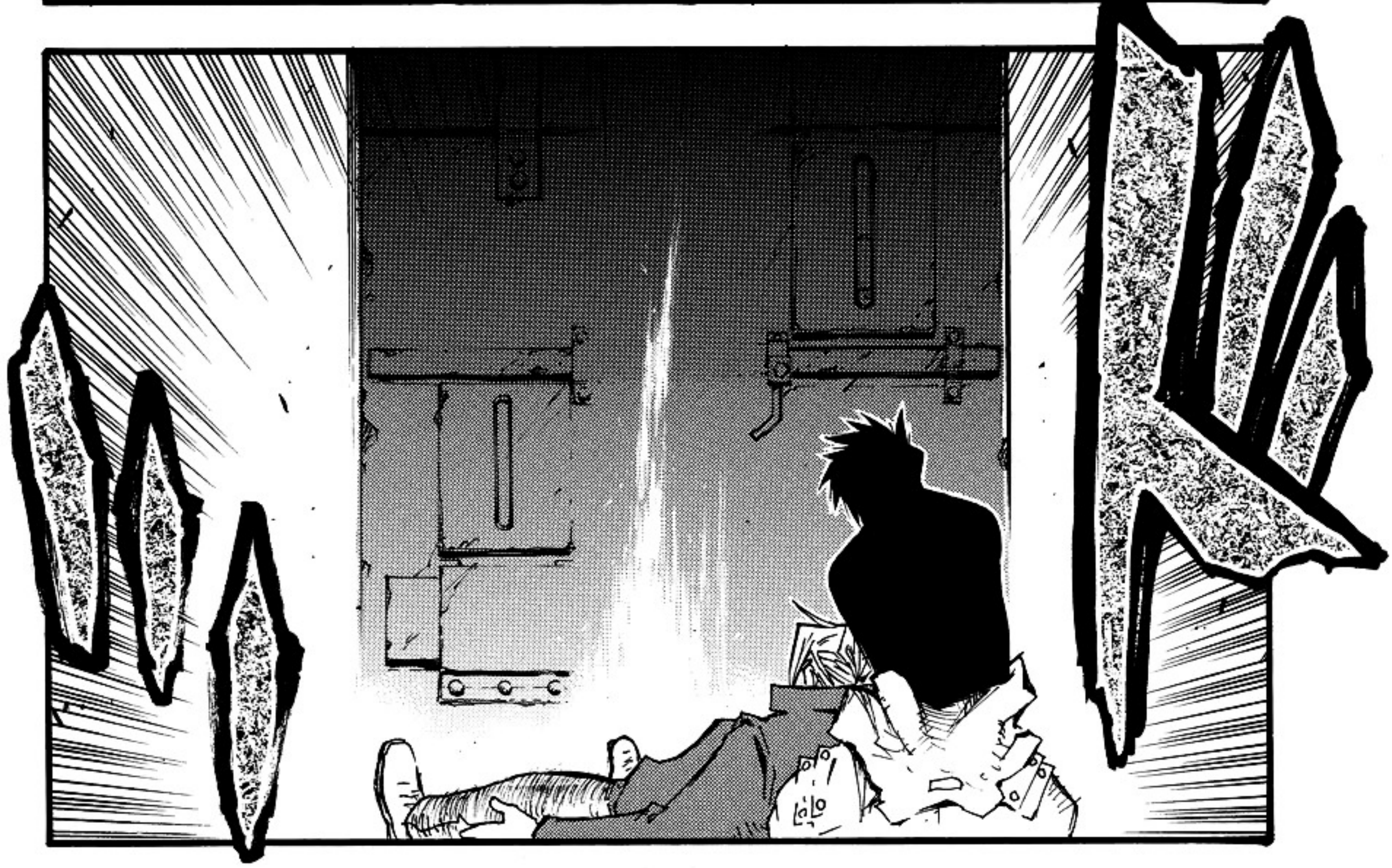
I SAW YOU WITH MR. VASH.
I'M UH... M-MR. LIVIO.

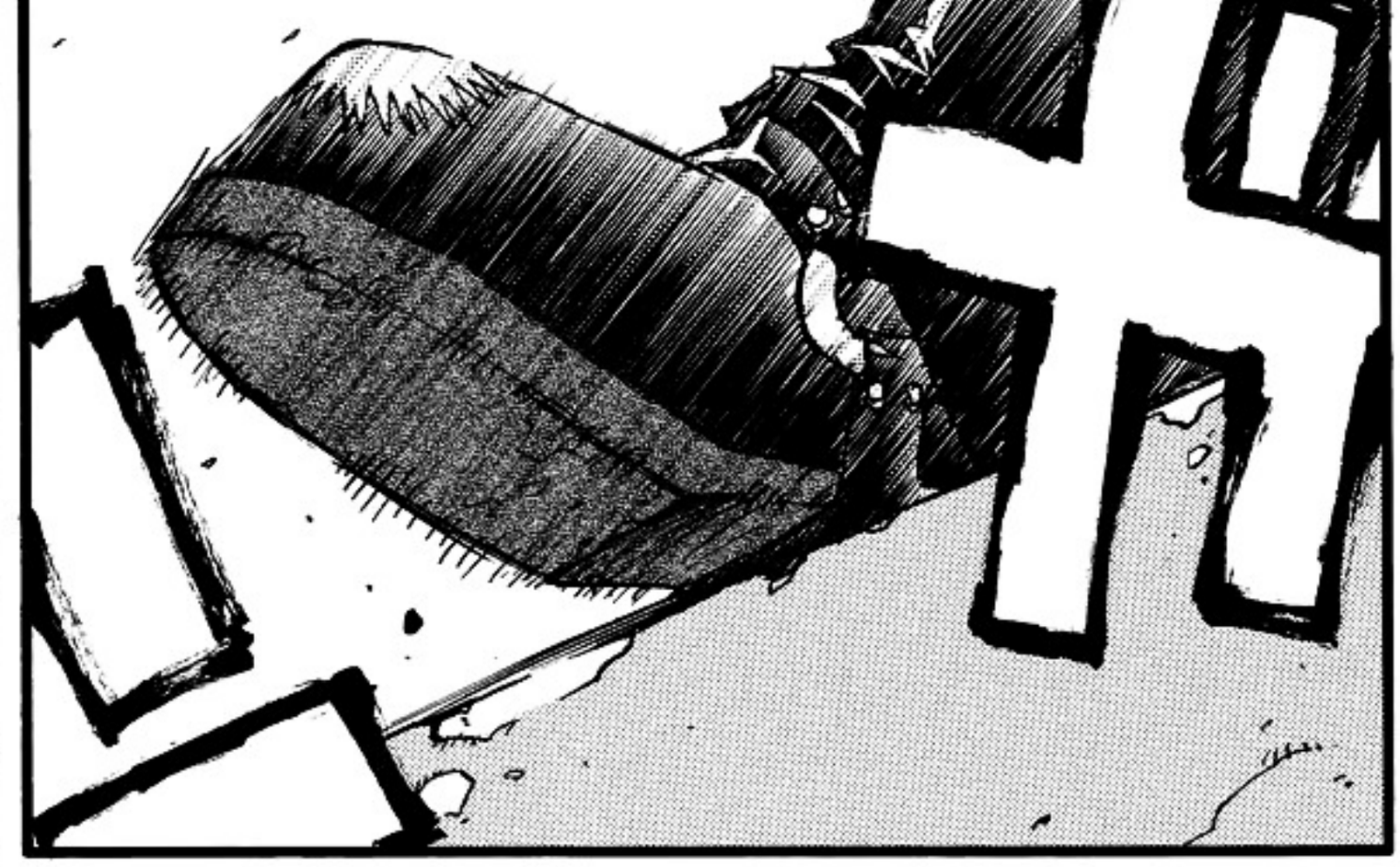
I'LL DEAL WITH THESE GUYS.
THE TWO OF YA SHOULD GET OUTTA HERE.

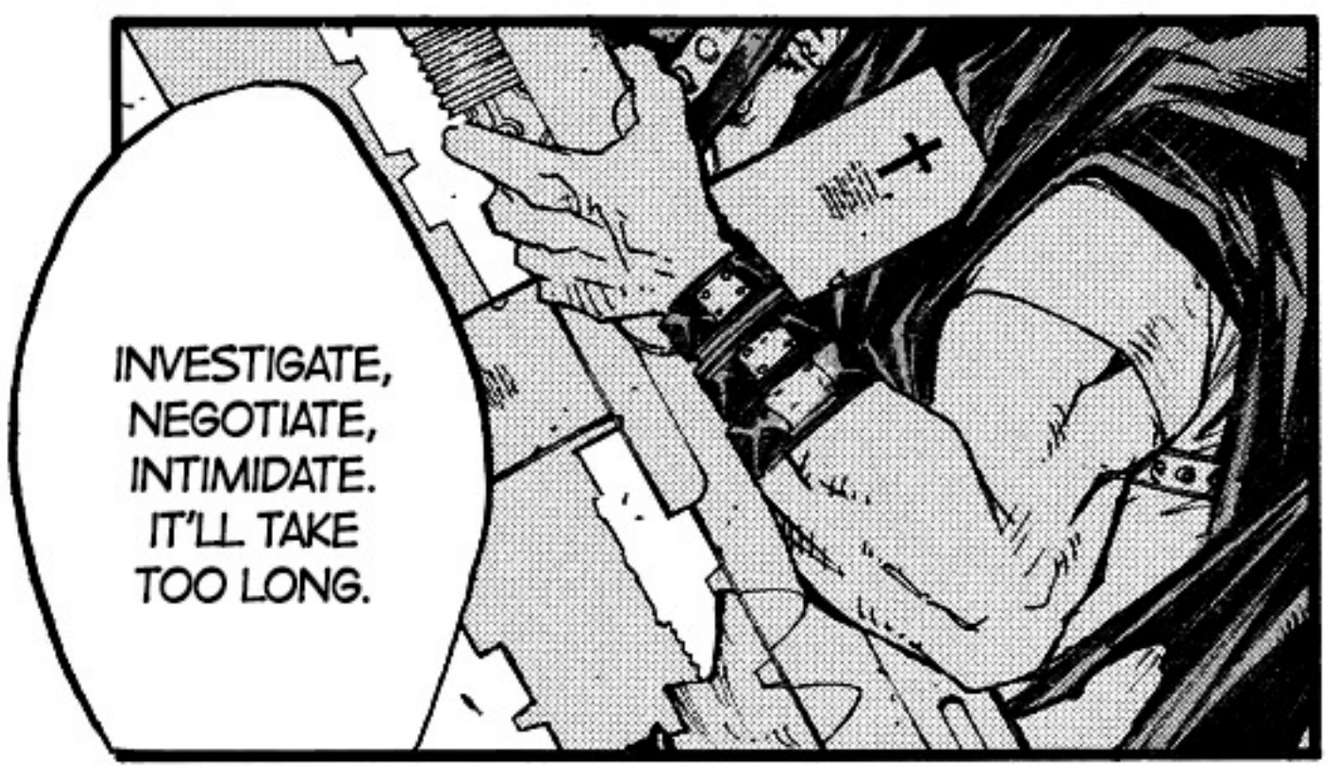
WE SHOULD WAIT FOR BRAD TO COME AROUND WITH ANOTHER SMOKE-SCREEN.
YOU CAN ONLY DISTRACT THEM FOR SO LONG.
NO WAY!

I'M GONNA GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH 'EM.

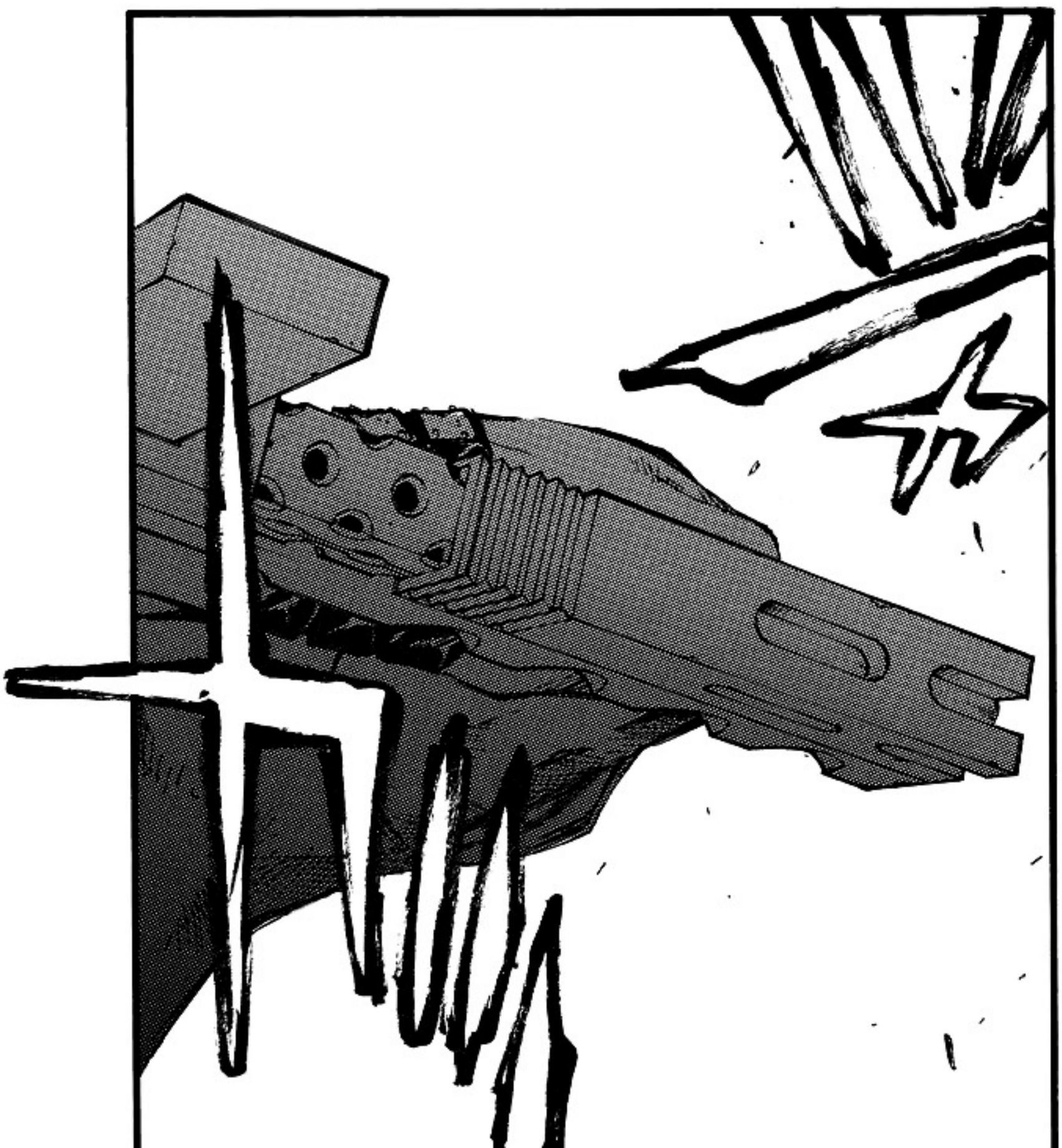
I AIN'T TALKIN' 'BOUT A DISTRACTION.

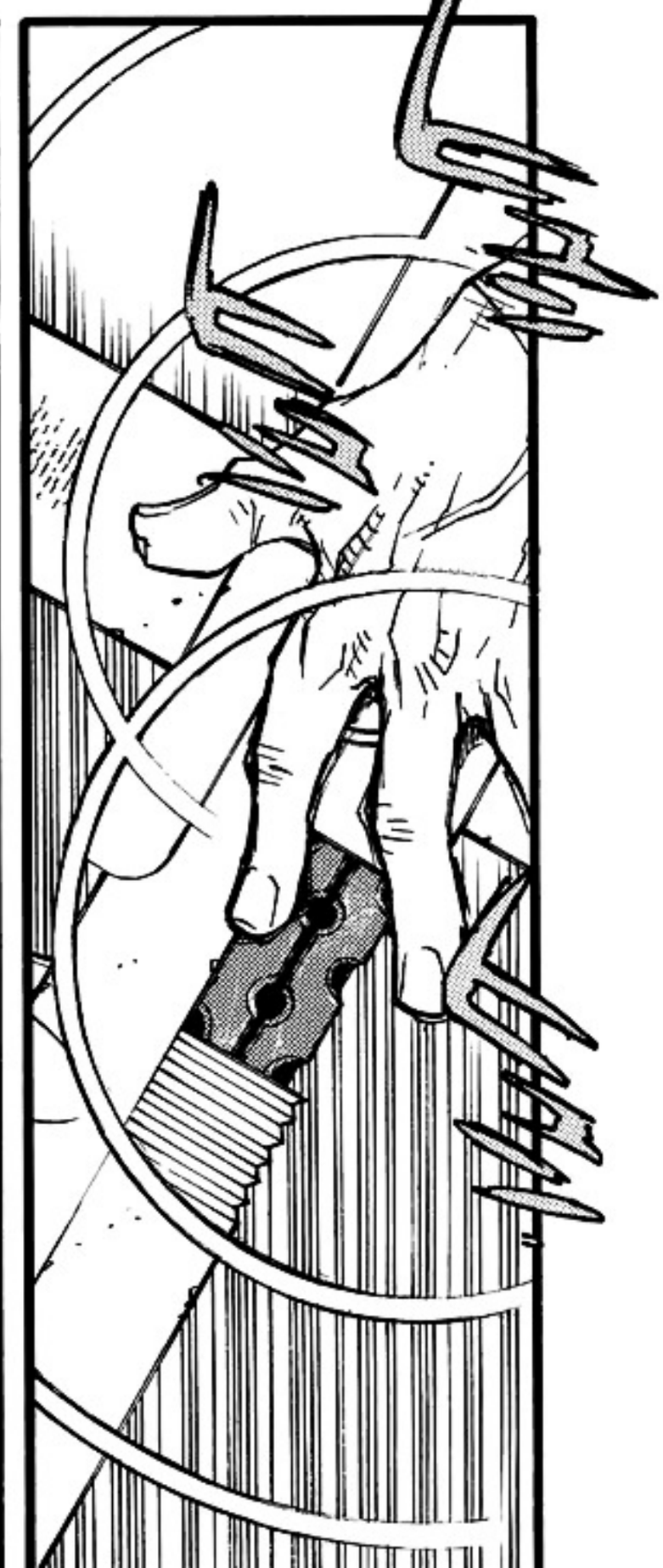




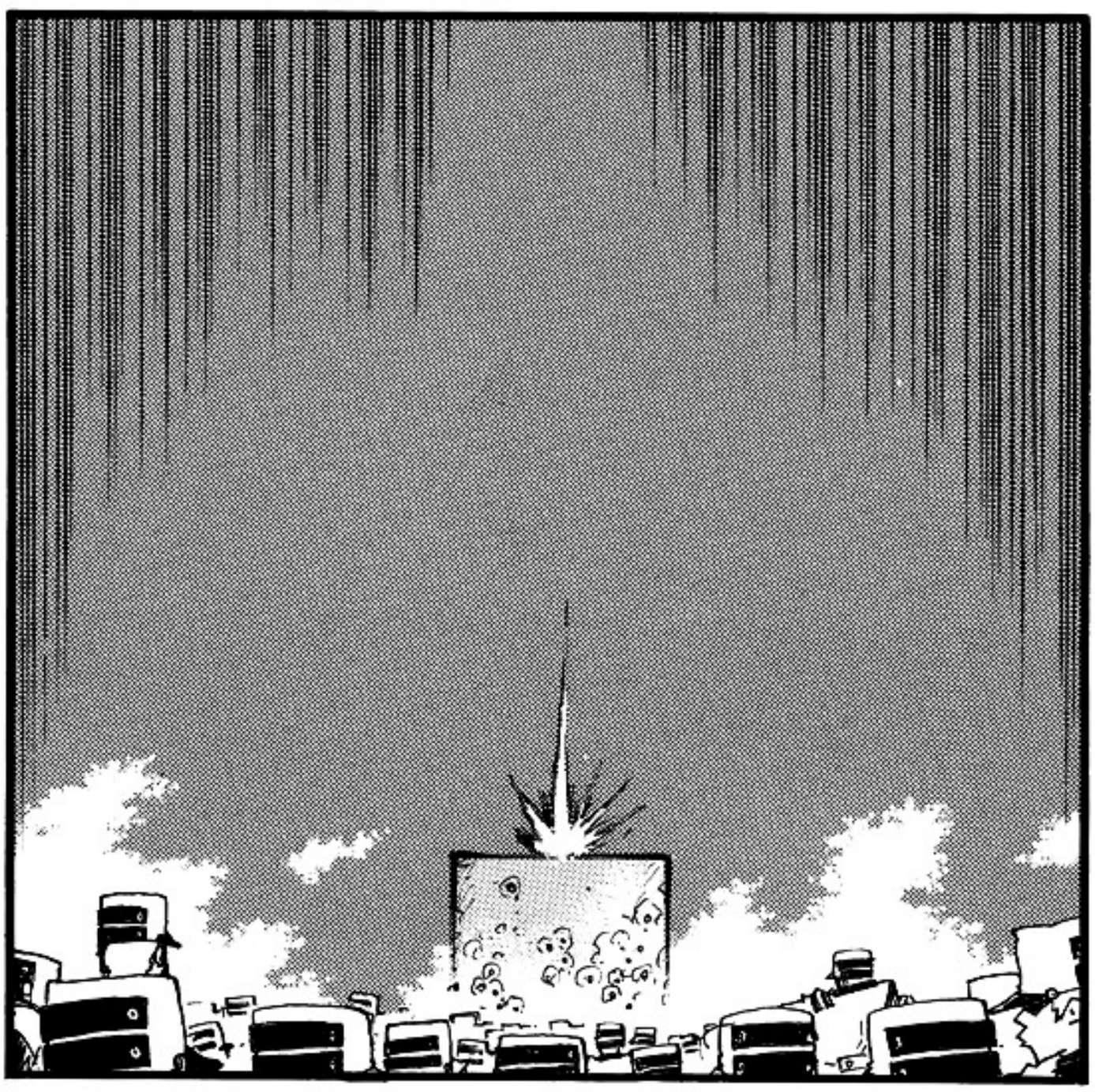

INVESTIGATE, NEGOTIATE, INTIMIDATE. IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG.

THE ARK SITUATION ABOVE US IS DIRE.





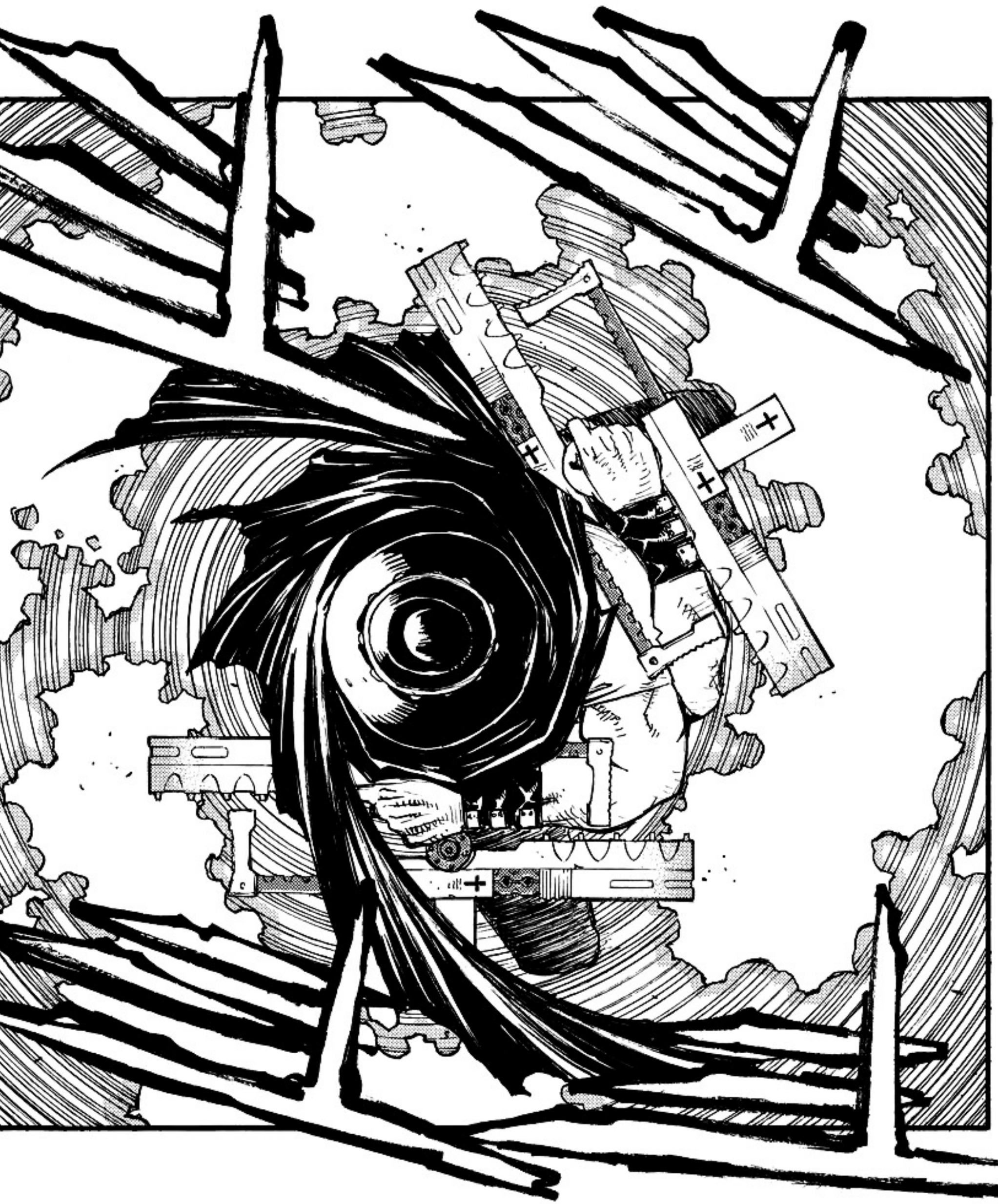
SO I'M JUST GONNA ASK YA.
WHERE'S THE GENERAL?

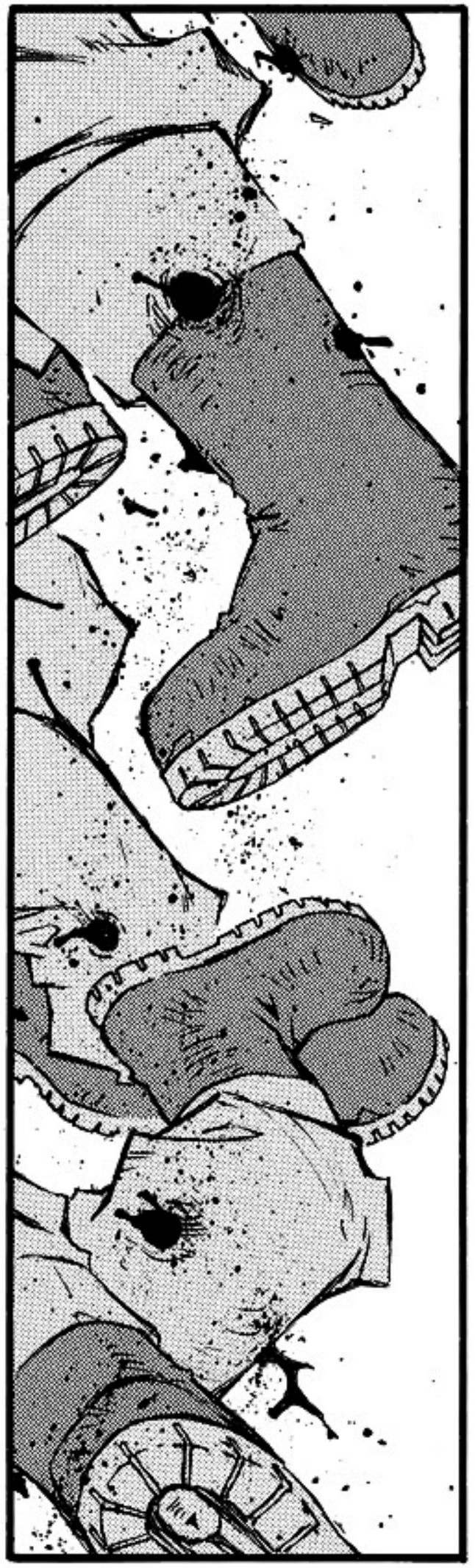


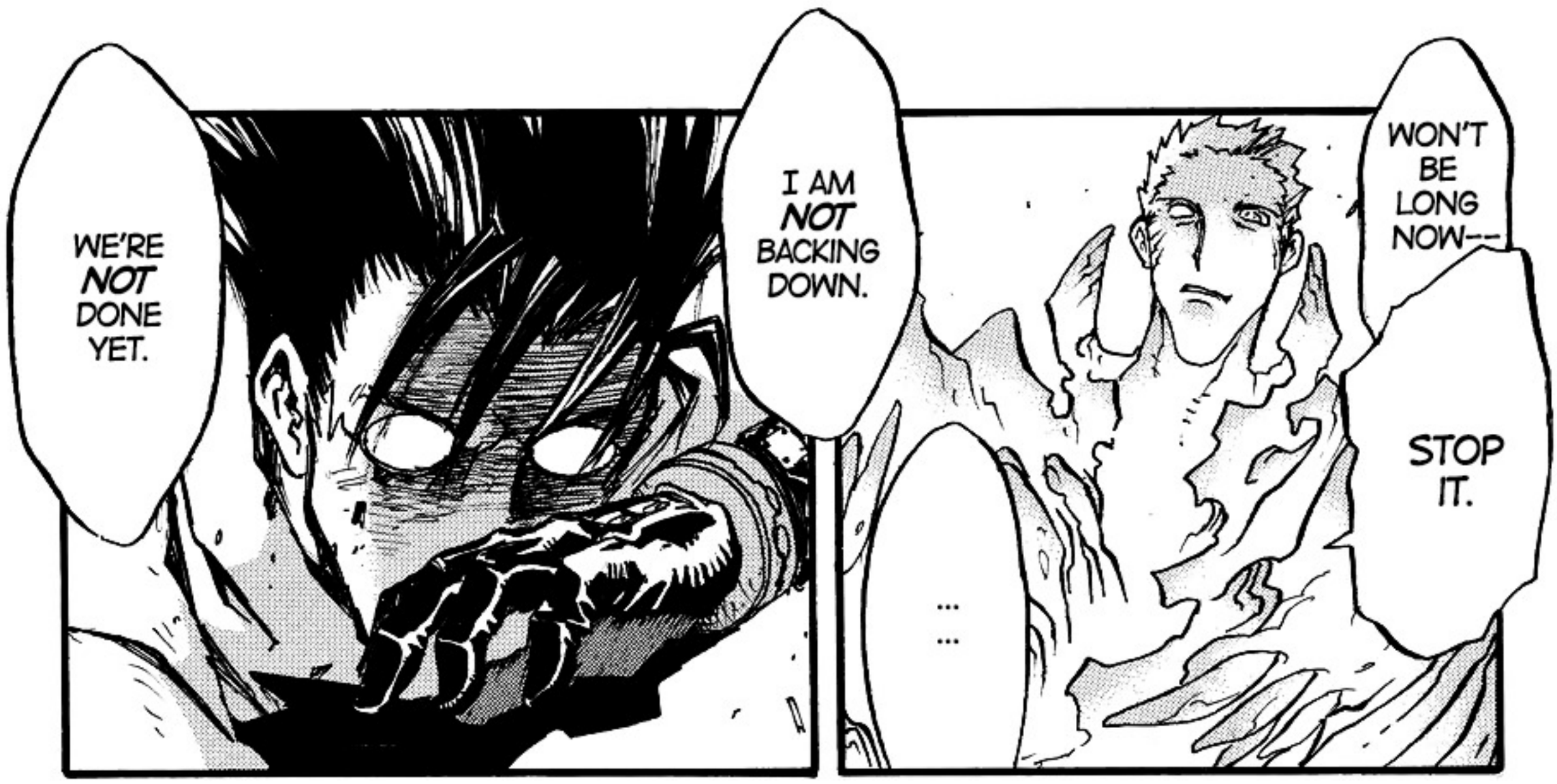
THERE.

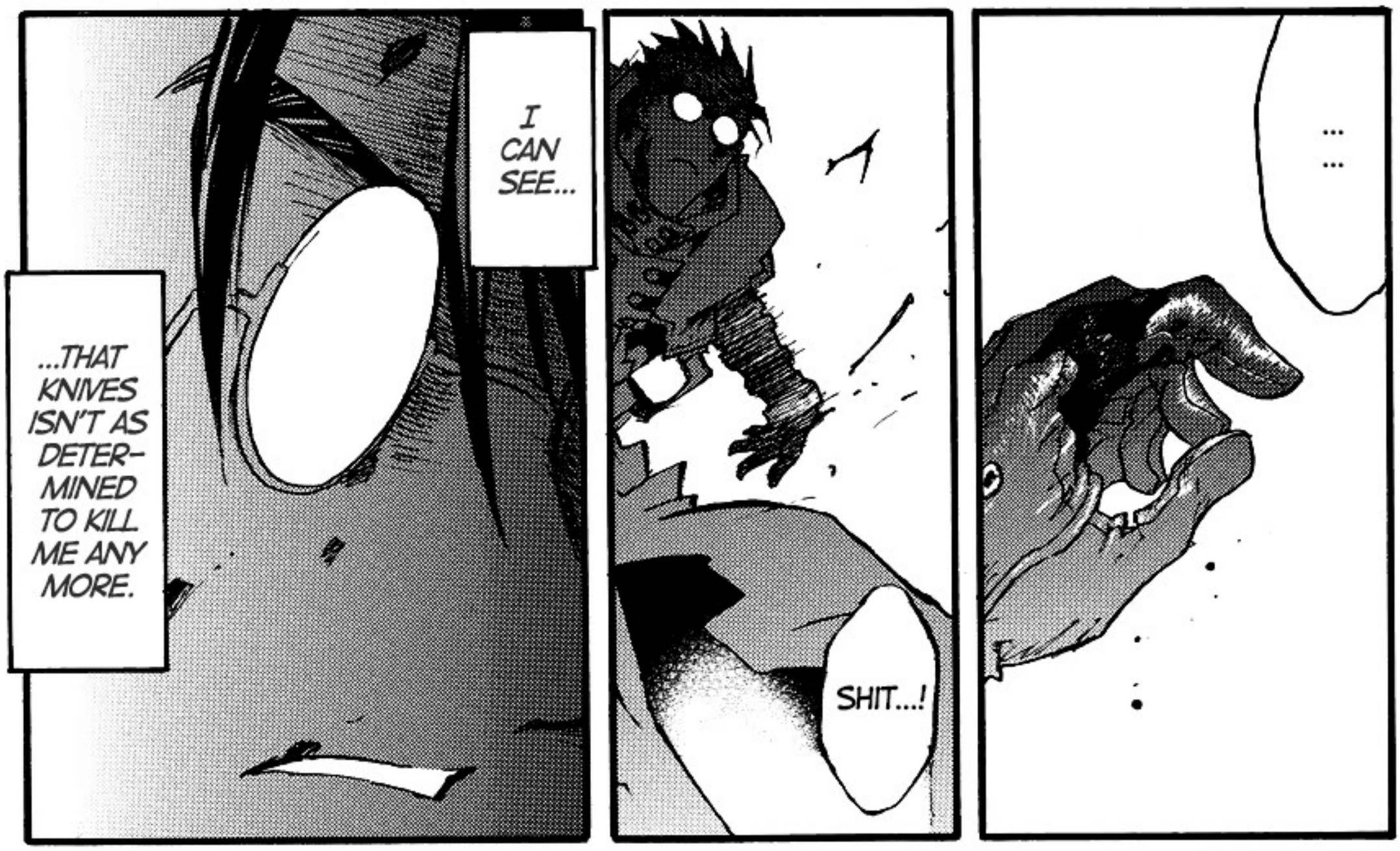
NO!
IT'S A FEINT!

STAY IN FORMA-TION!
STAY IN FORMA-TION!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

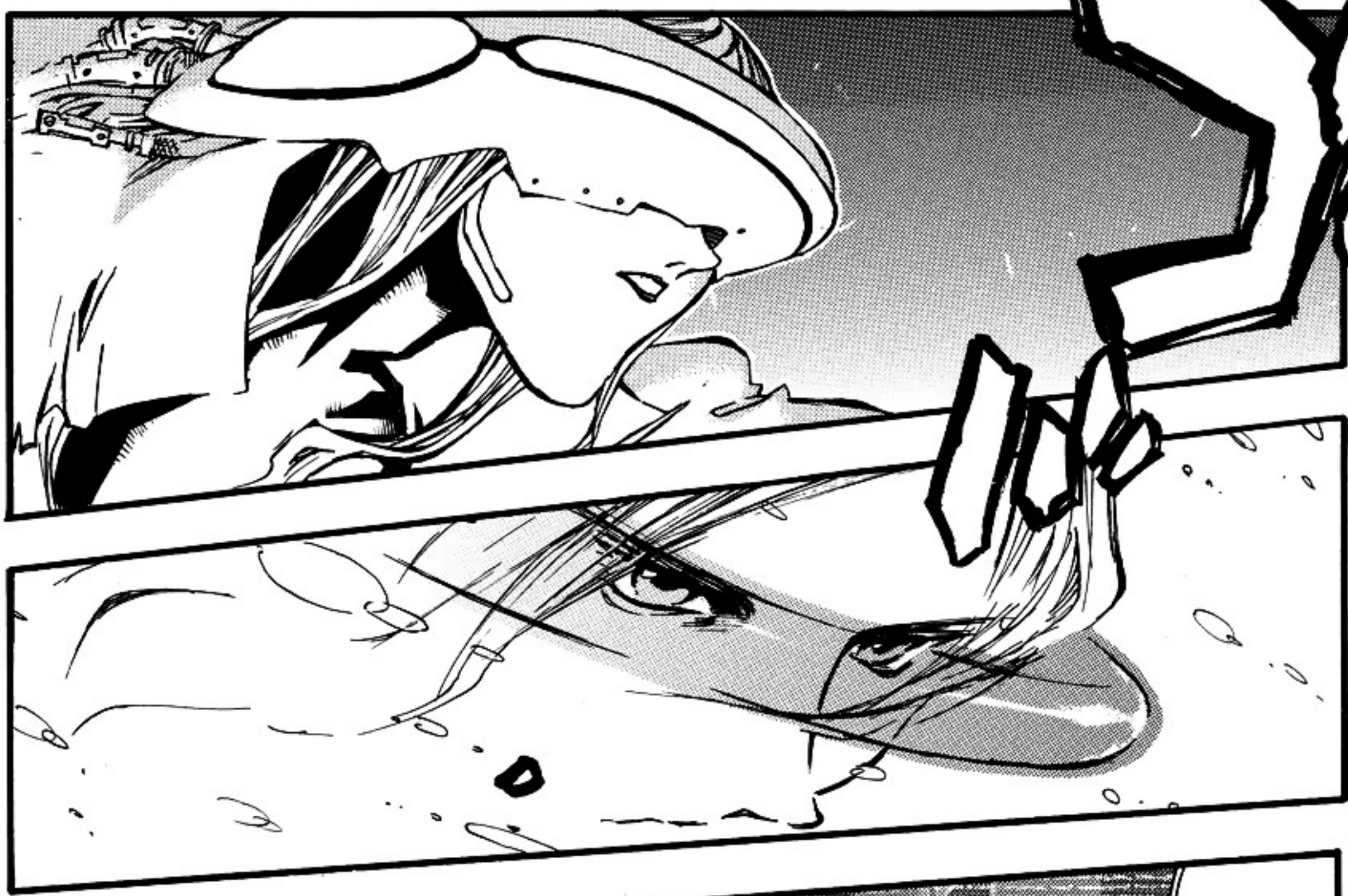


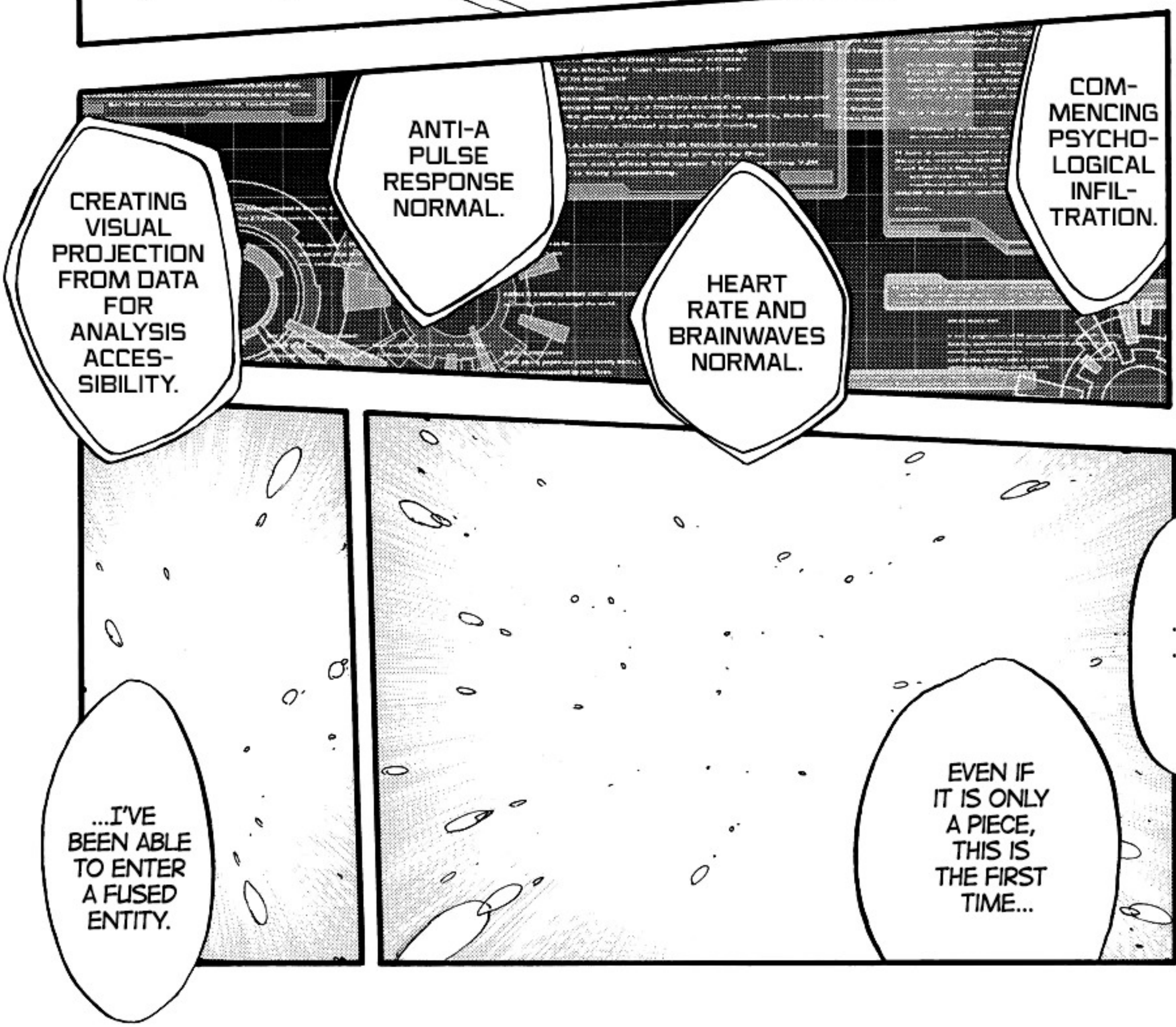


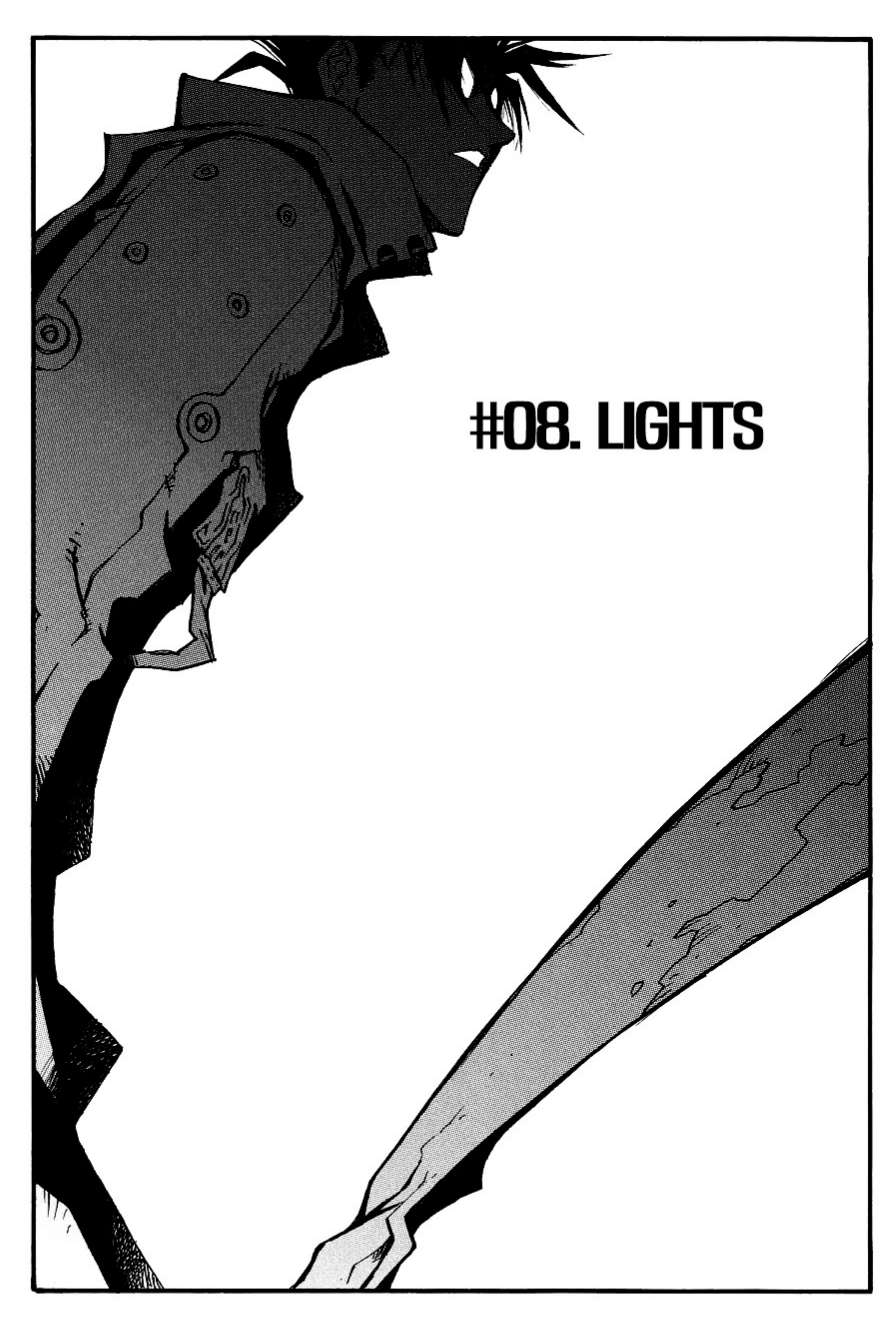




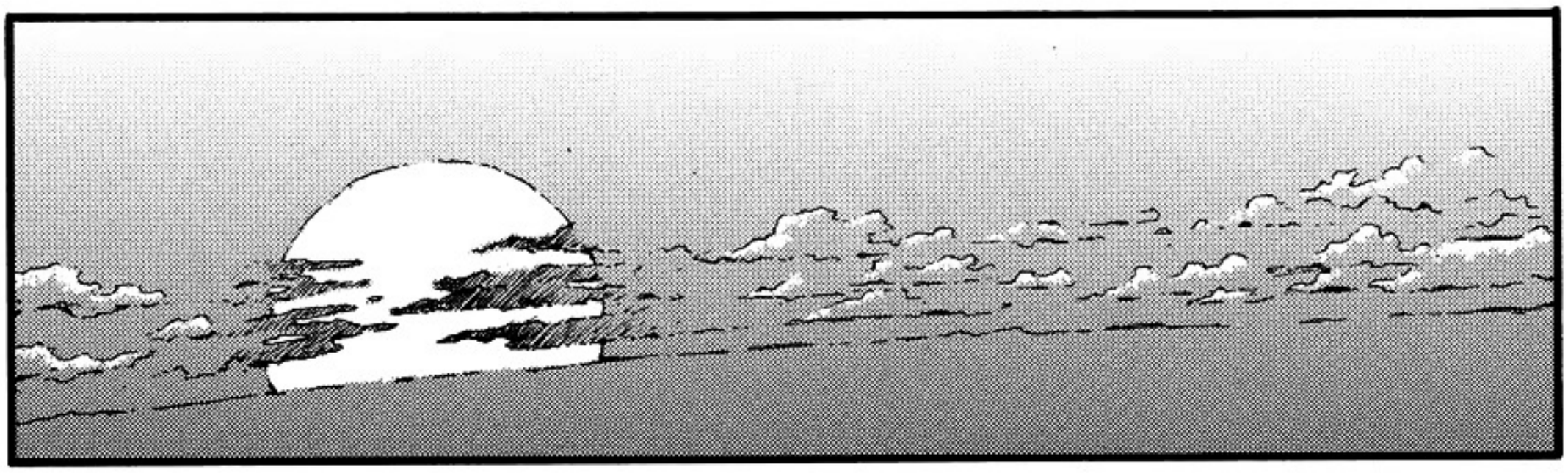
#07. RUN, LIVIO, RUN / END

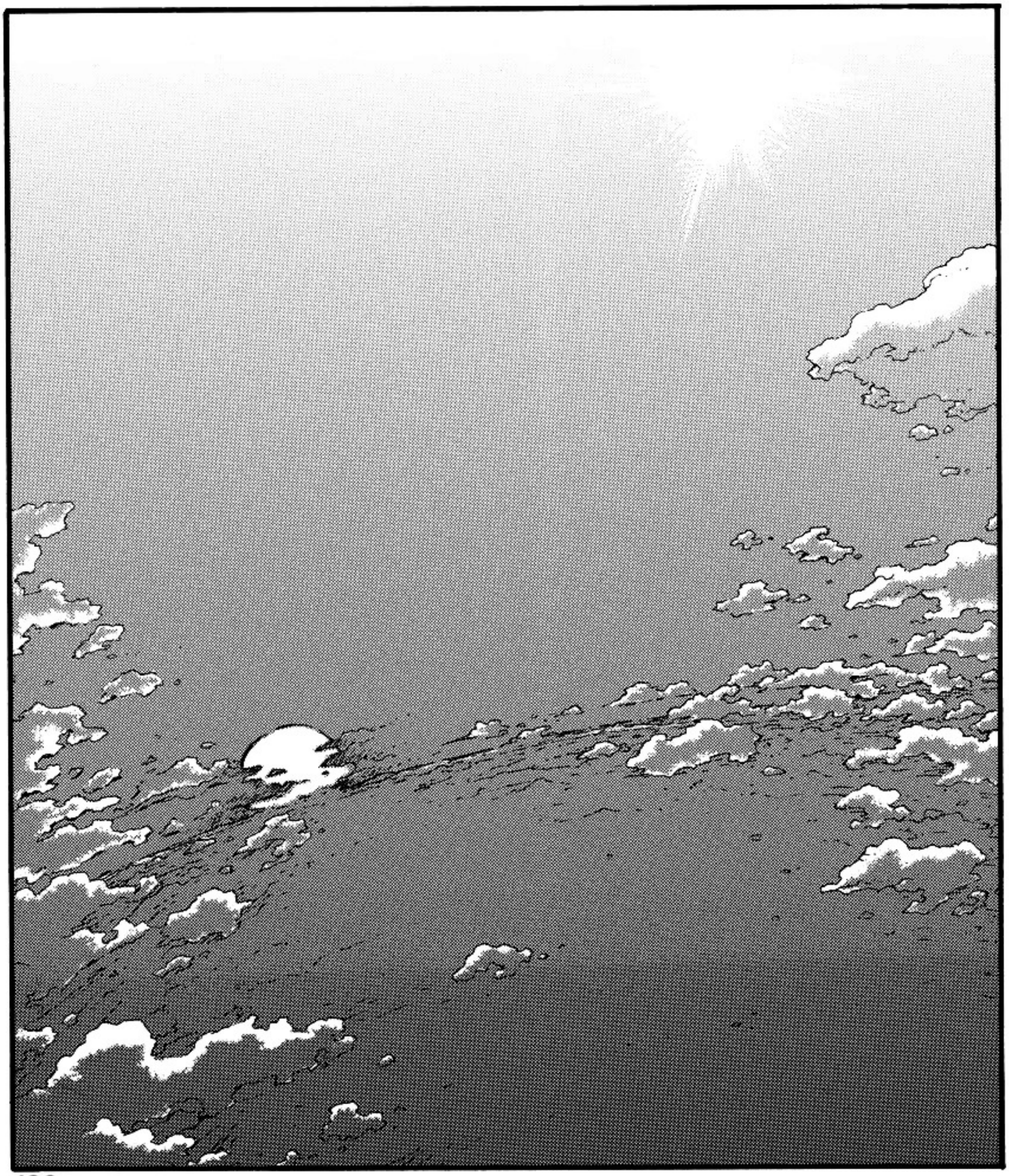


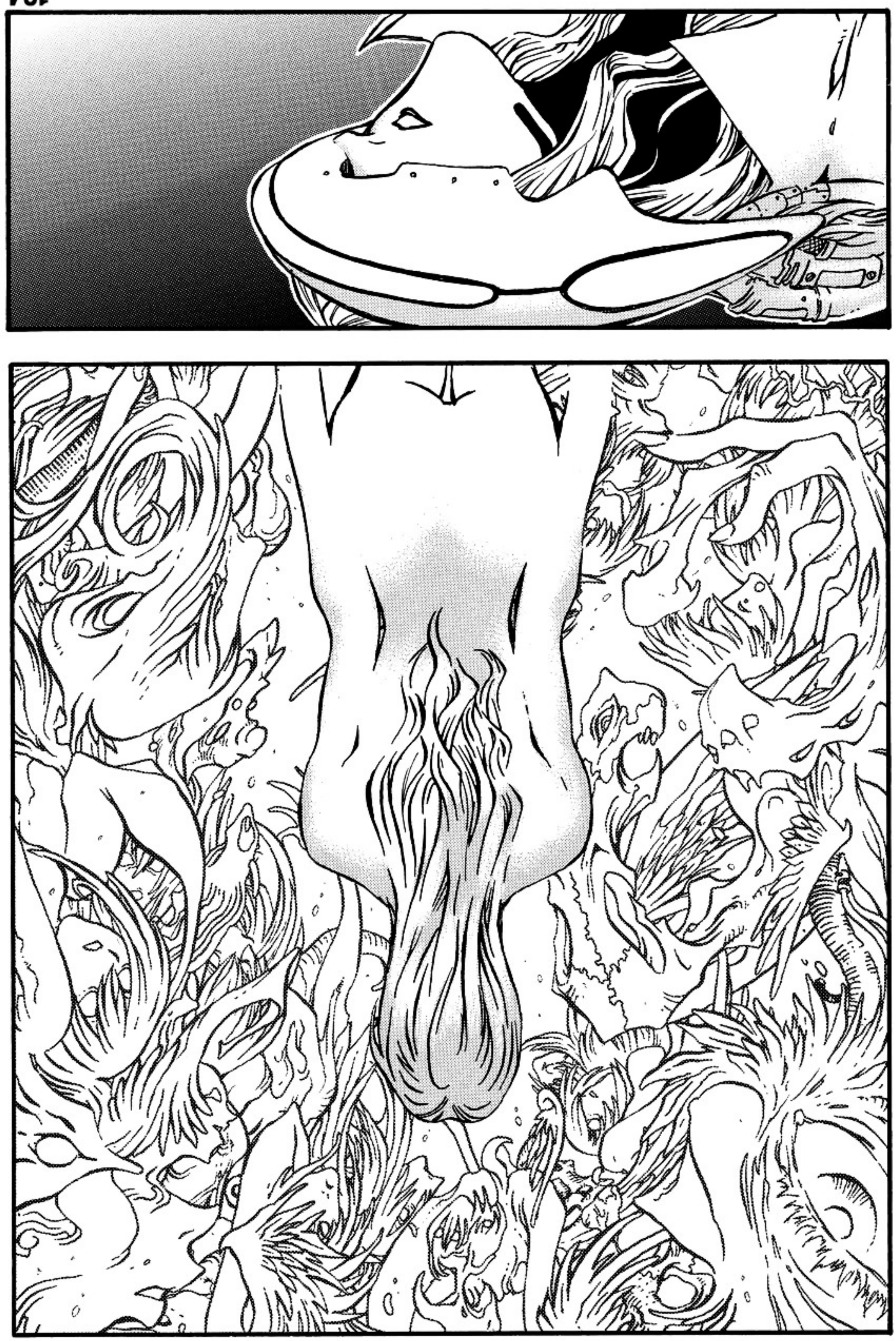

CREATING VISUAL PROJECTION FROM DATA FOR ANALYSIS ACCES-SIBILITY.
ANTI-A PULSE RESPONSE NORMAL.
HEART RATE AND BRAINWAVES NORMAL.
COM-MENCING PSYCHO-LOGICAL INFIL-TRATION.
...I'VE BEEN ABLE TO ENTER A FUSED ENTITY.
EVEN IF IT IS ONLY A PIECE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
...



#08. LIGHTS

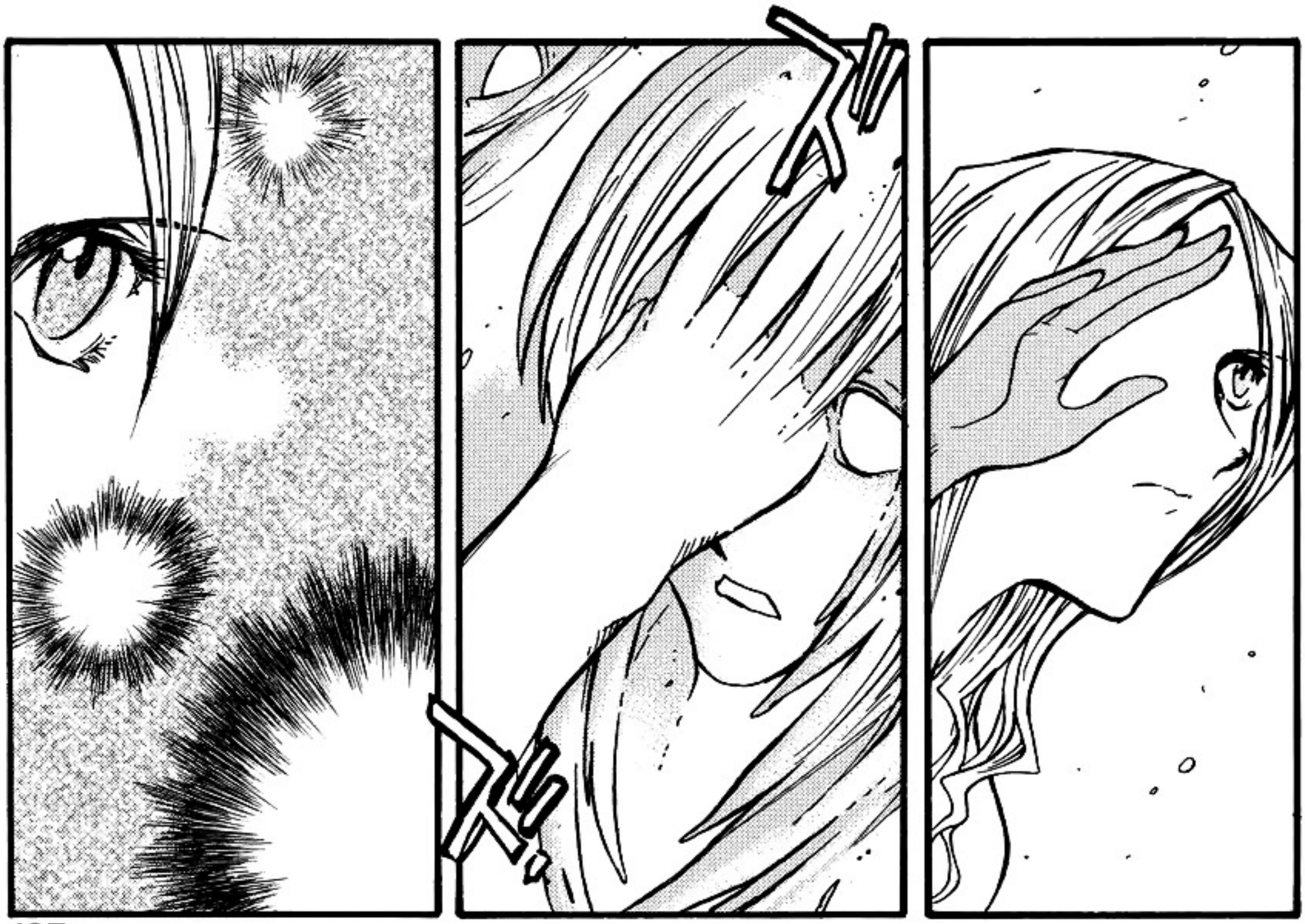




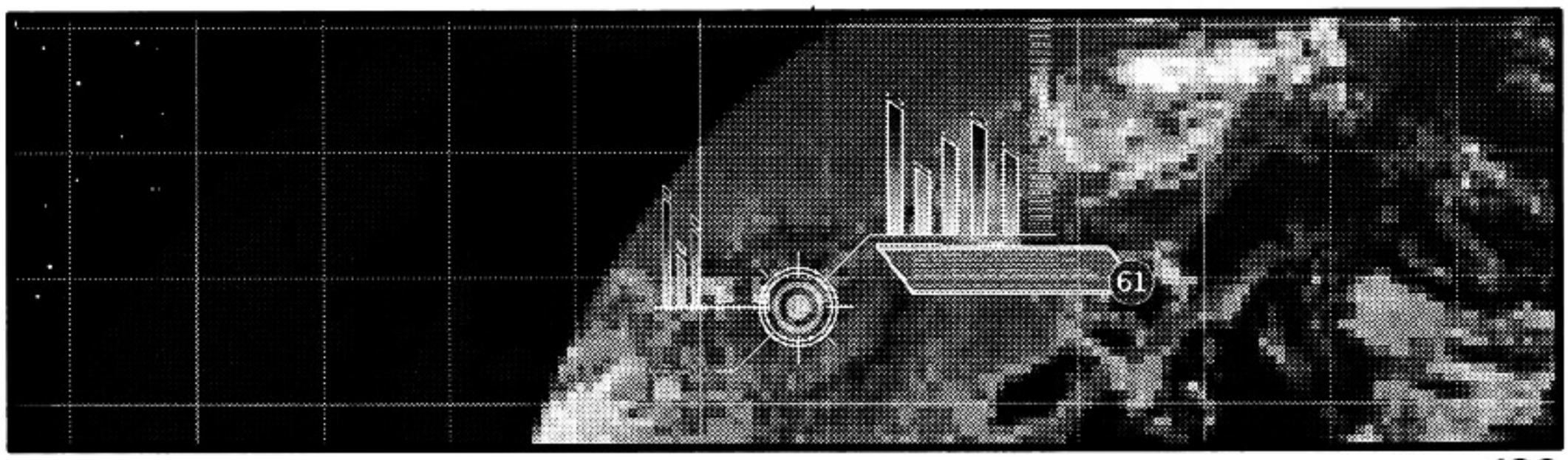


IT IS INCREDIBLY VAST.
AT THE BASIC LEVEL, IT IS A LARGE COLLECTION OF CON-SCIOUS-NESSES.

THAT IS WHY THESE PLANTS ARE ABLE TO FUSE WITHOUT MAJOR DIFFICULTIES.
WE AS A SPECIES NATURALLY DO NOT HAVE A CONCEPT OF SELF, AND THEREFORE INSTEAD HAVE A DEEP SHARED CONSCIOUSNESS.



...
...
THIS IS...

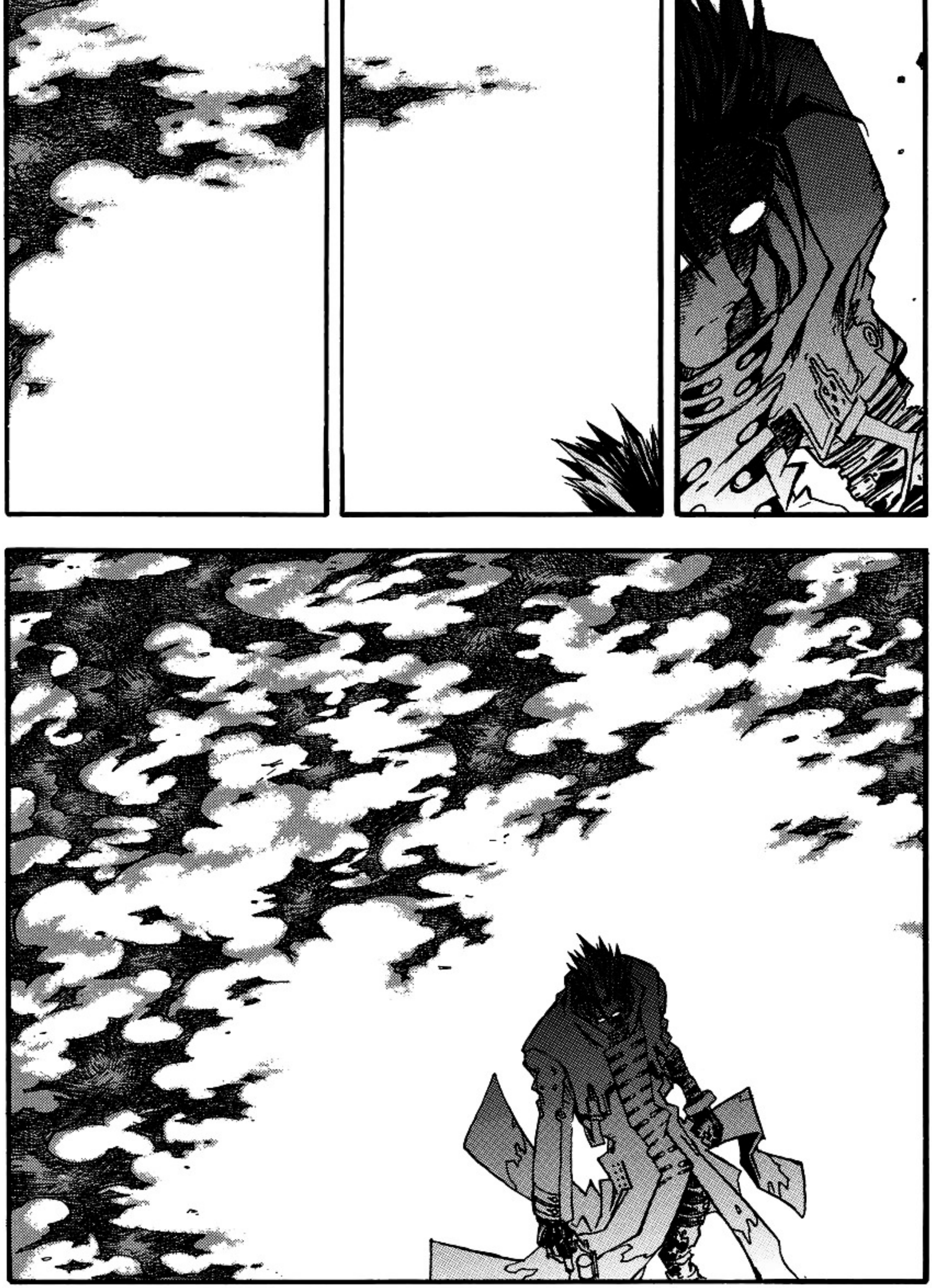

61

IT'S JUMPING AGAIN!
DAMN IT!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT ANY ONE OF THOSE GATES OPENING UP COULD DESTROY 7% OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE.
HOW MANY TIMES IS THAT?
I DON'T WANT IT BLOWING UP THE SECOND WE LAND.
WILL THE PLANET BE OKAY?

UN-BELIEVABLE AMOUNTS OF TENSION.

AND NOT A SINGLE MISTAKE.
UN-INTERRUPTED CONCENTRATION.

...I MUST PRAISE YOUR EFFORTS.
IF IT'S ANY CONSO-LATION...


NOW, REST.
YOU DID WELL.

BUT NOW...
...YOU WON'T HAVE TO WITNESS WHAT COMES NEXT.
WHAT A SHAME.
I'M SURE YOU'RE DIS-APPOINTED.

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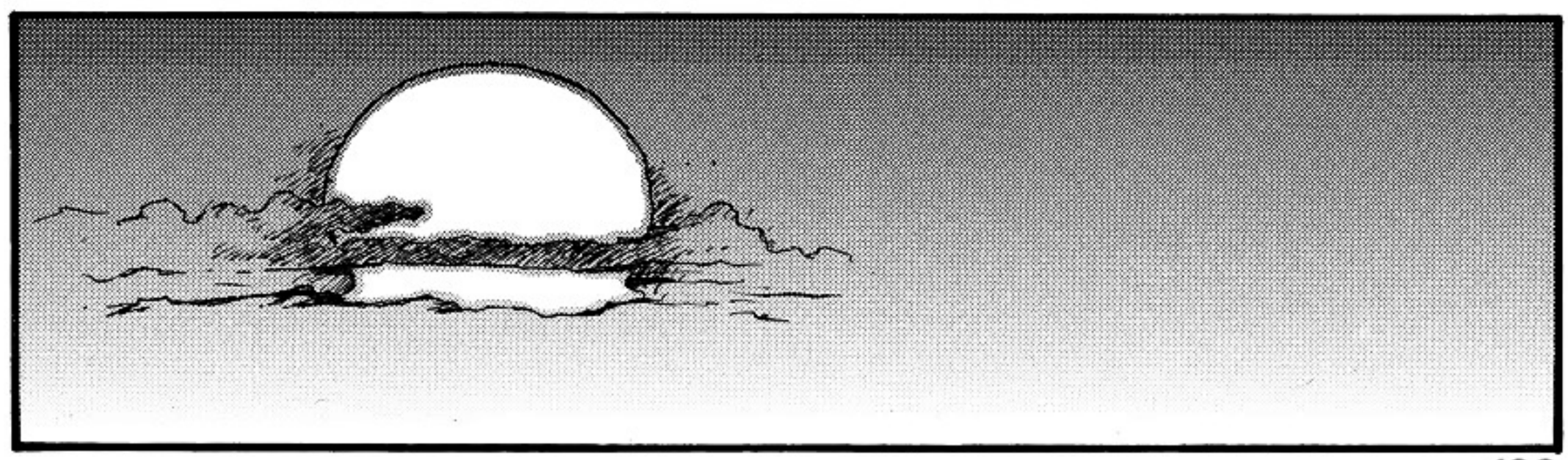
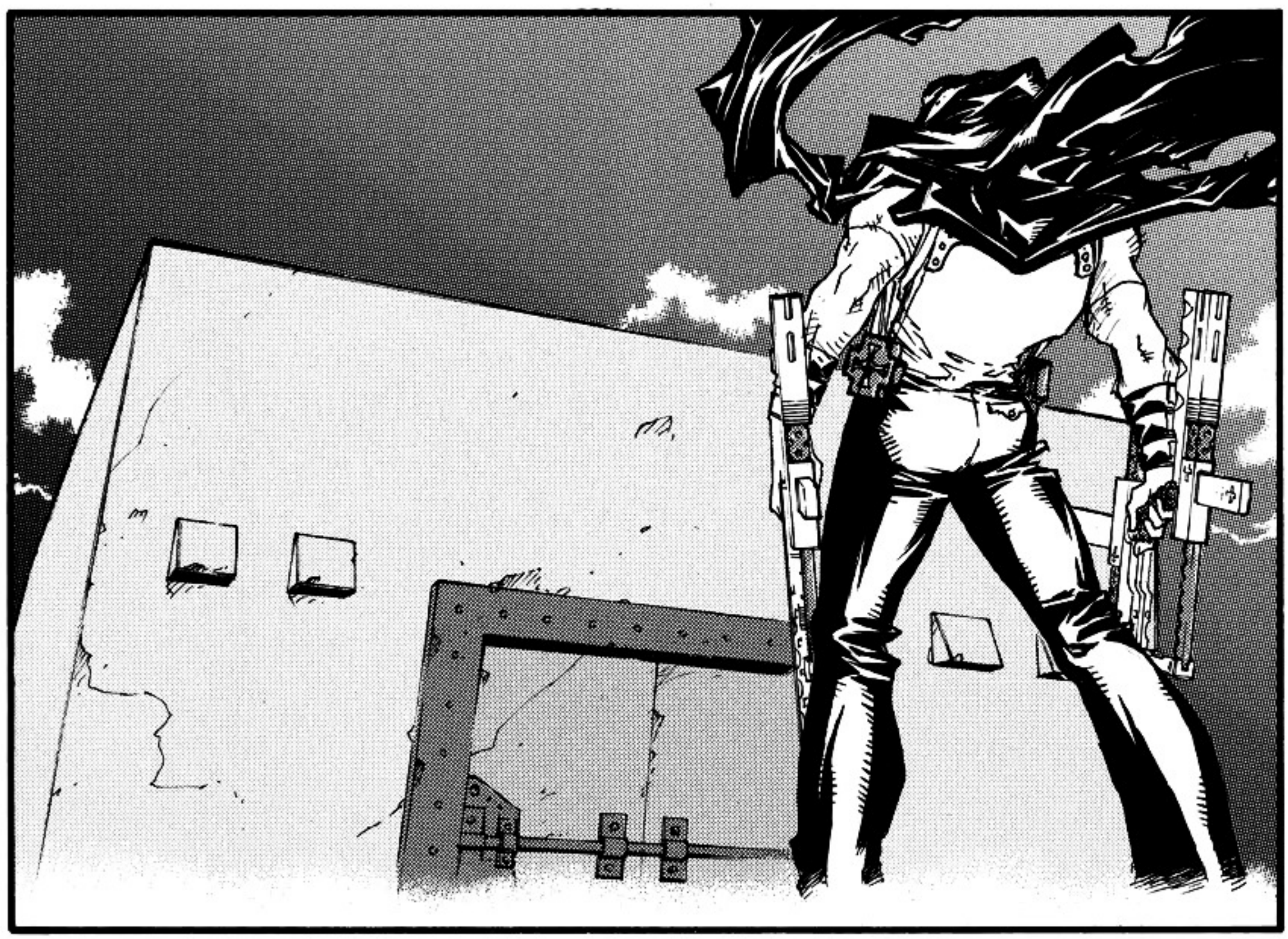
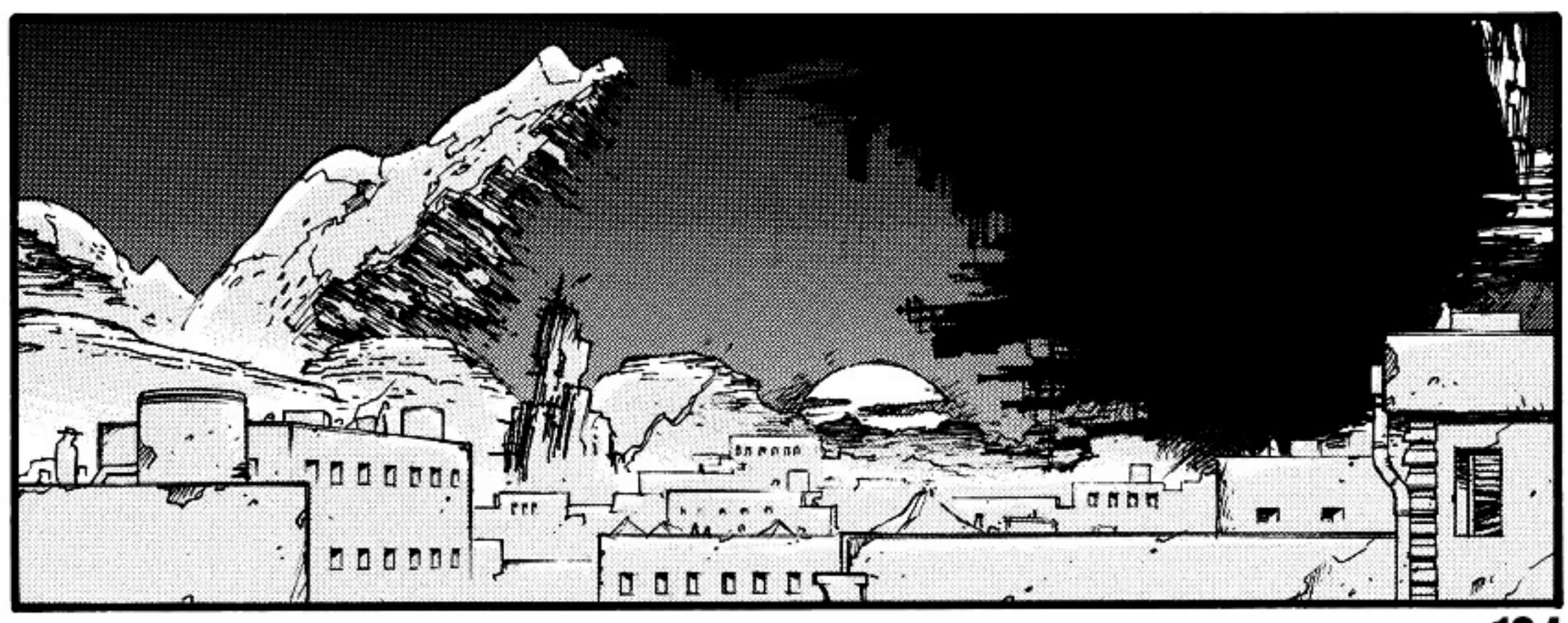
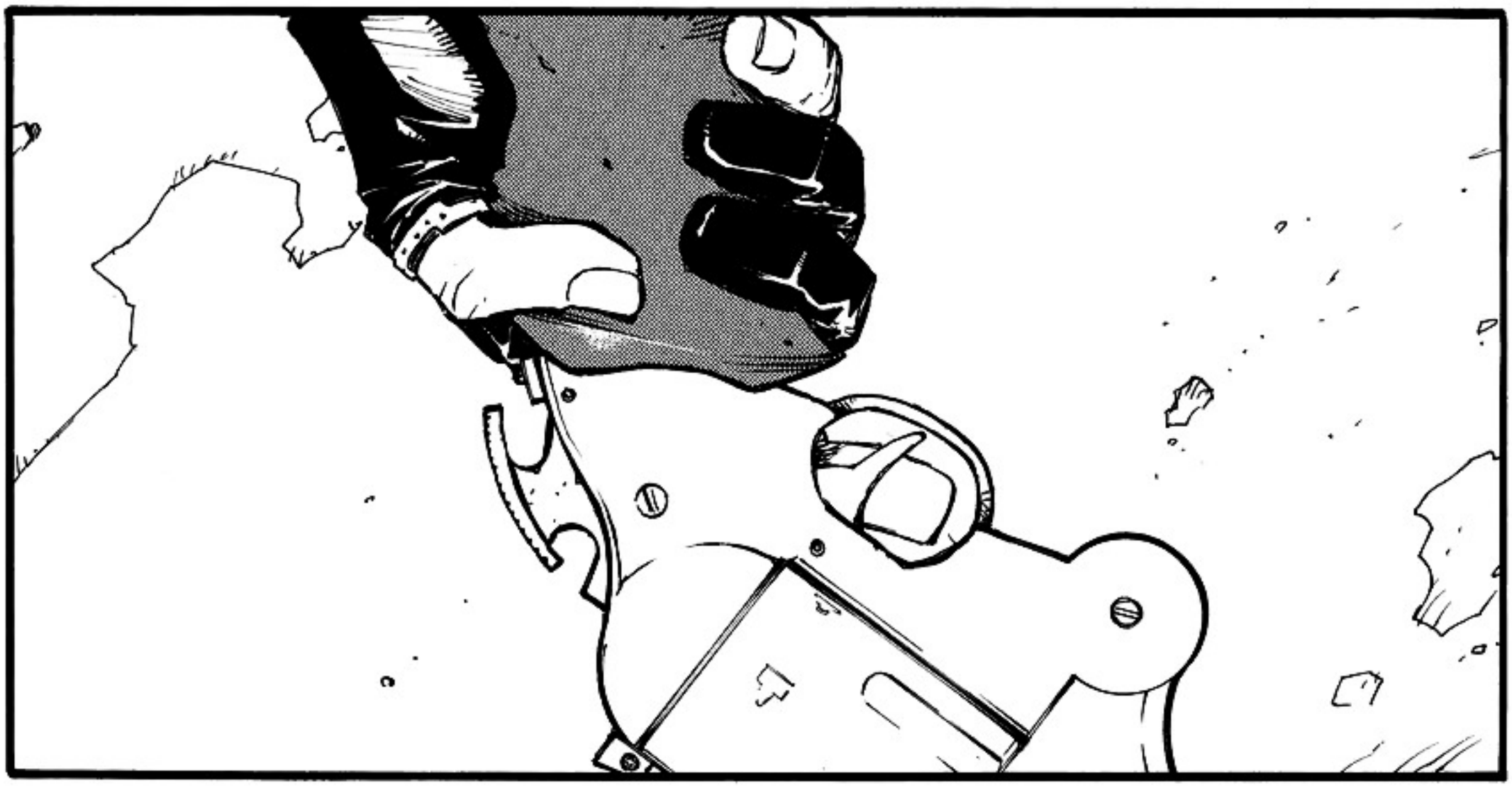
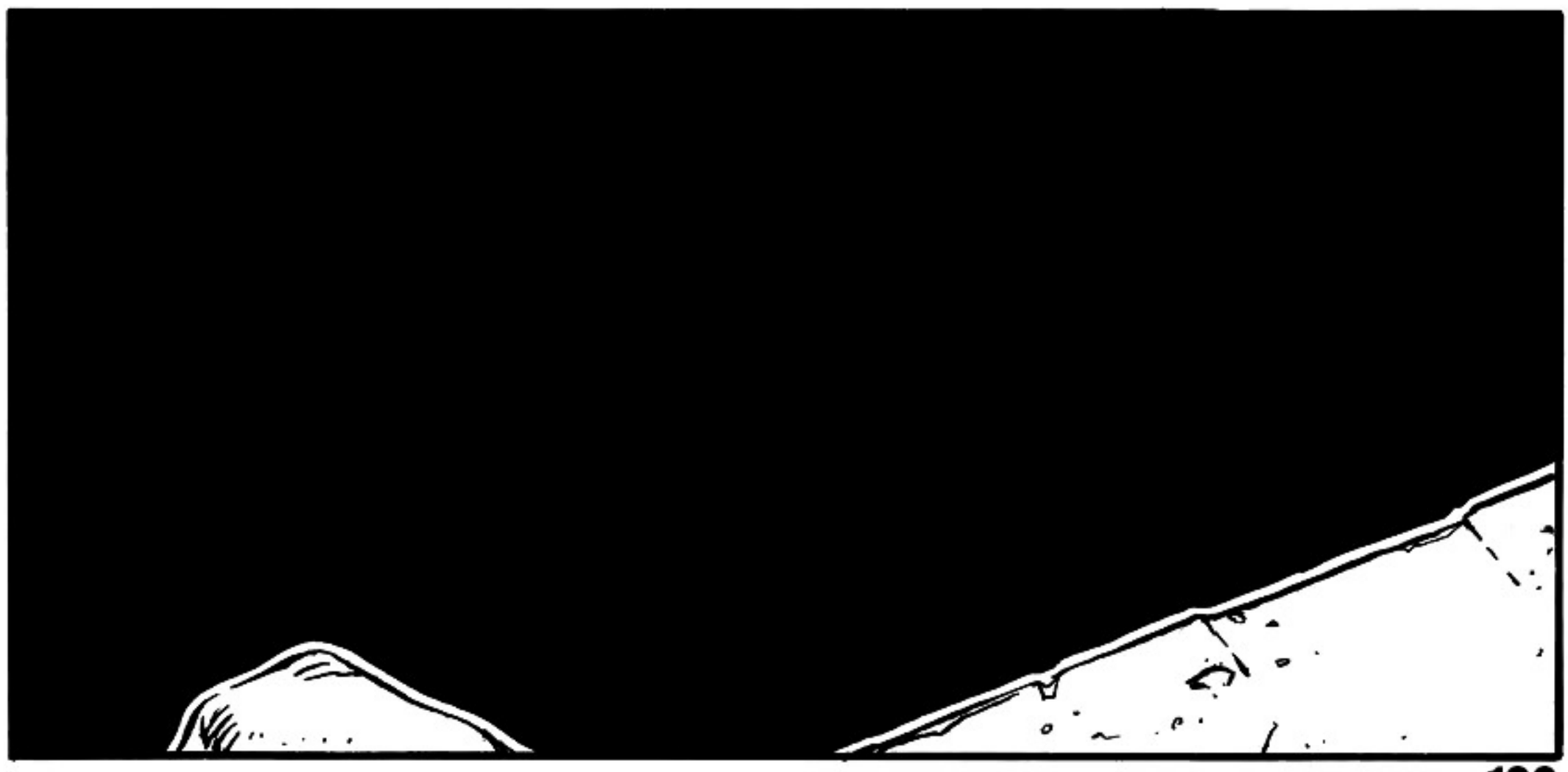
YOU NO LONGER HAVE TO BURN OUT...
SLEEP WELL, VASH.
...IN A REALITY THAT'S TOO PAINFUL TO BEAR.

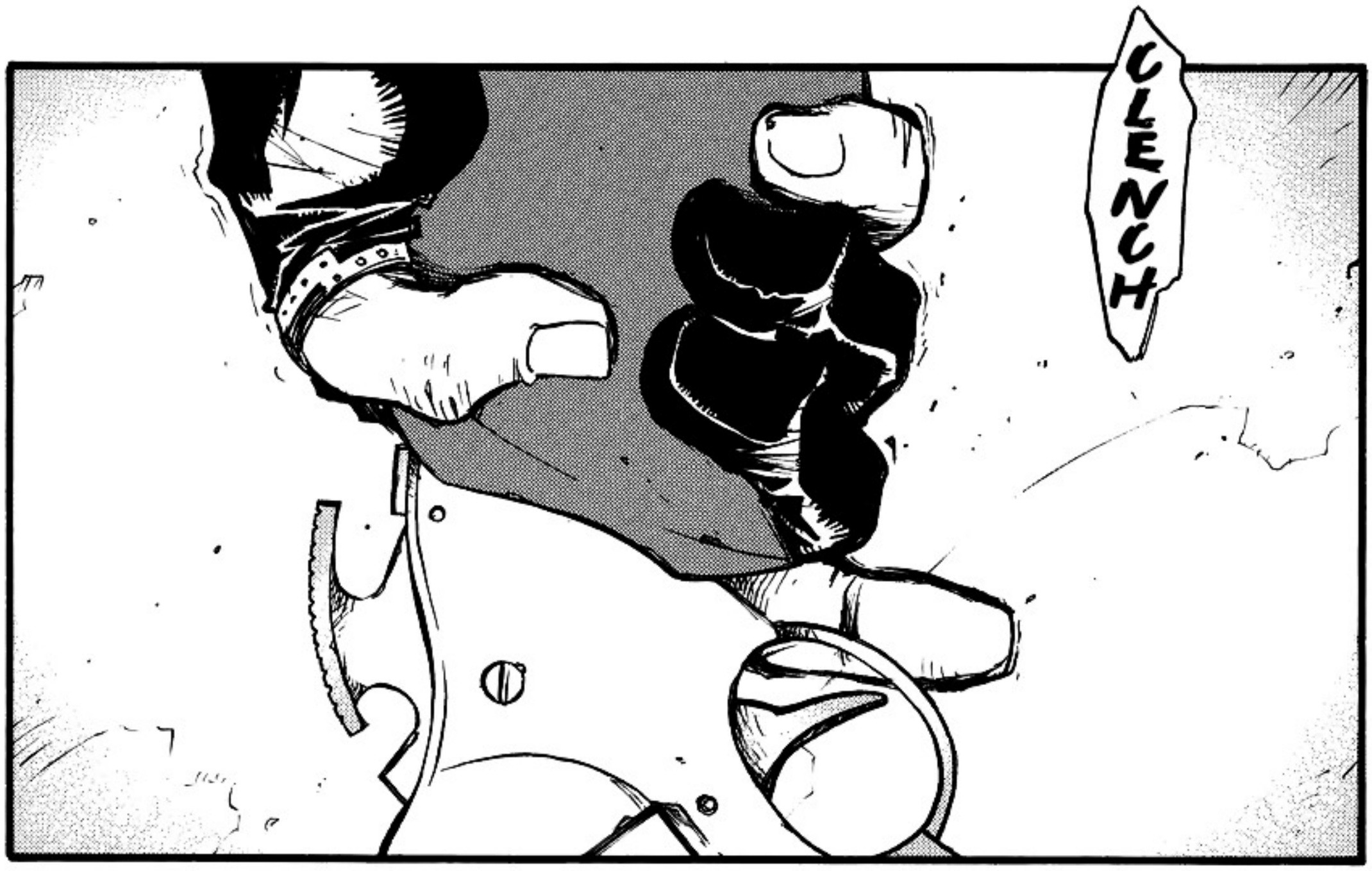


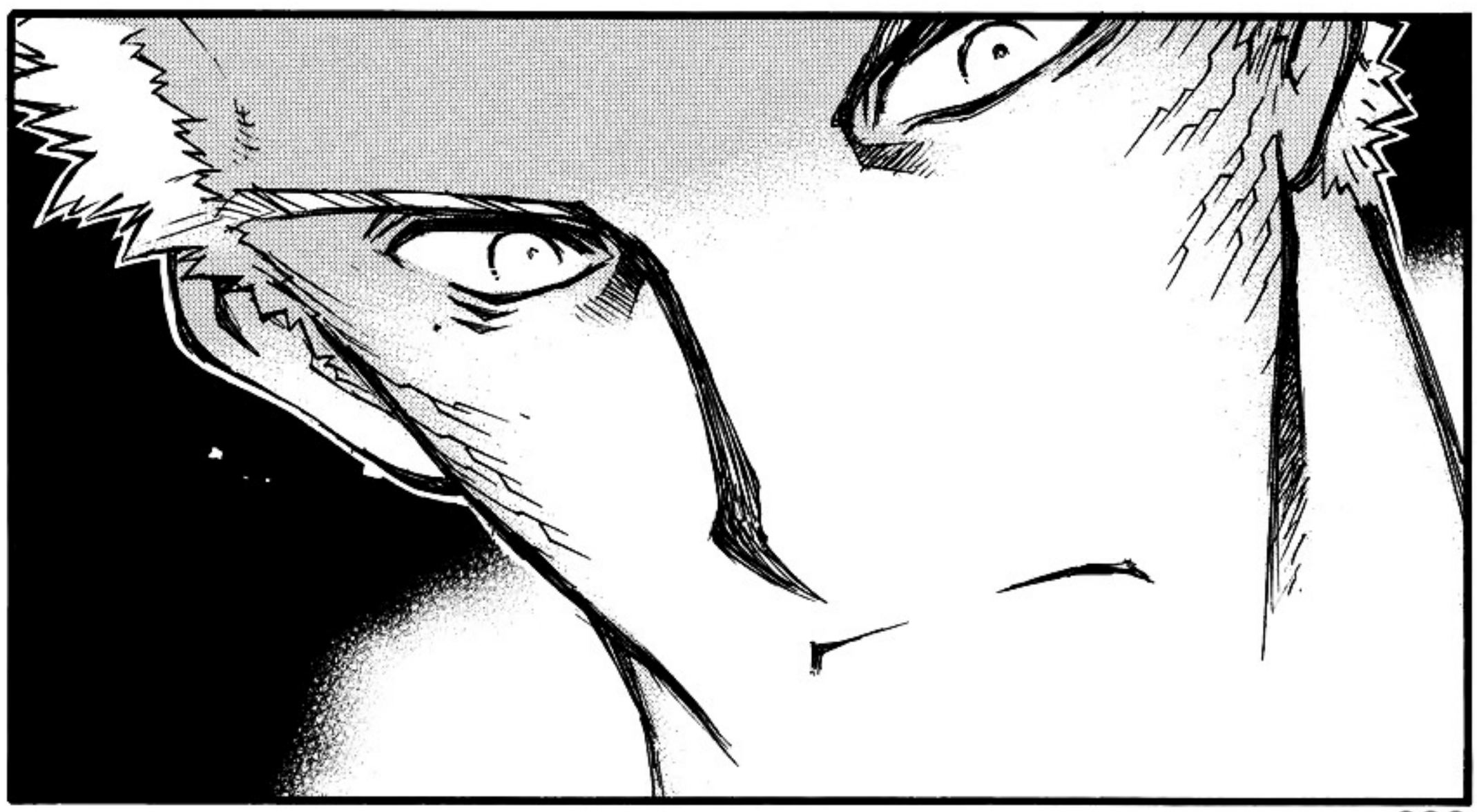


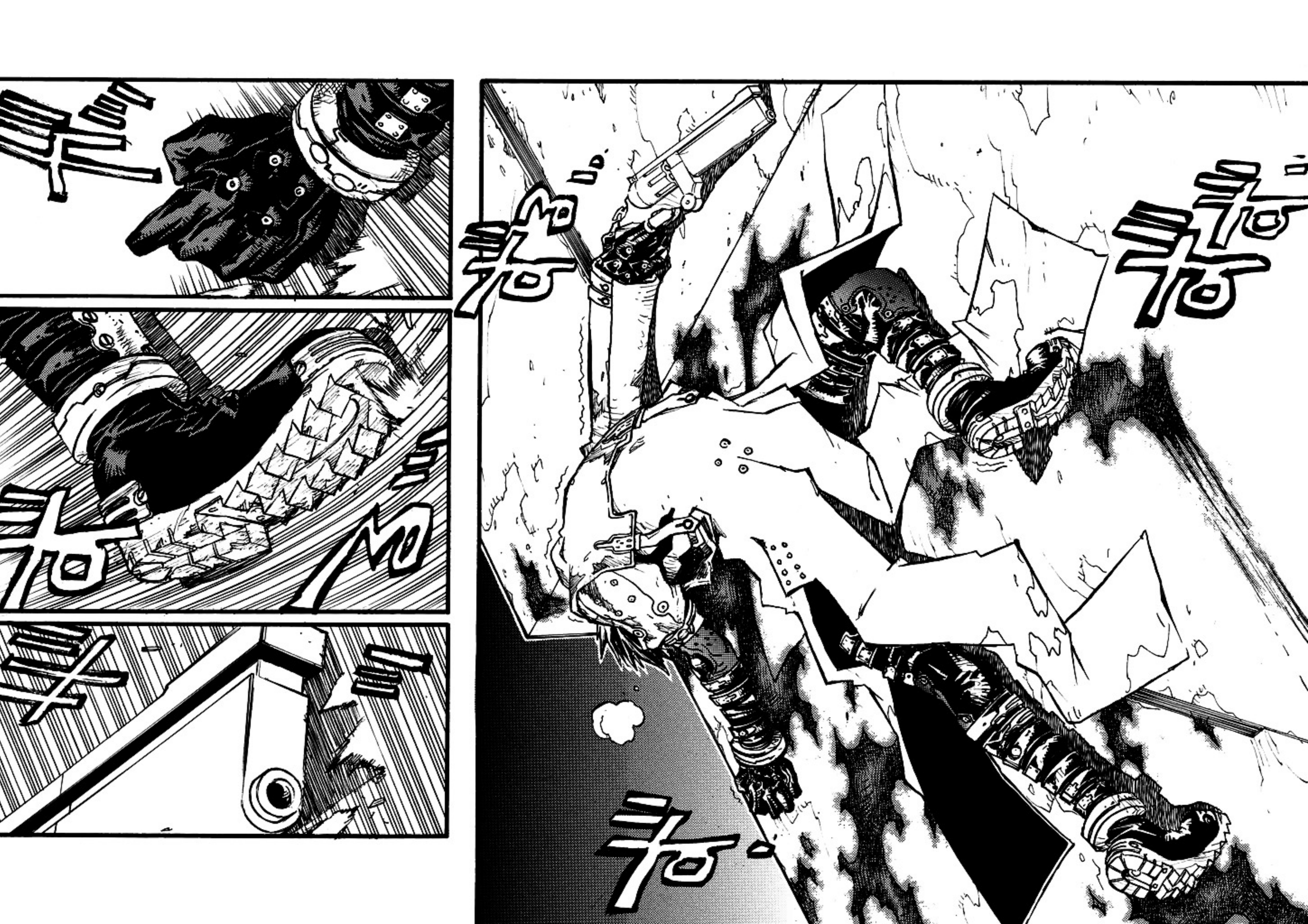


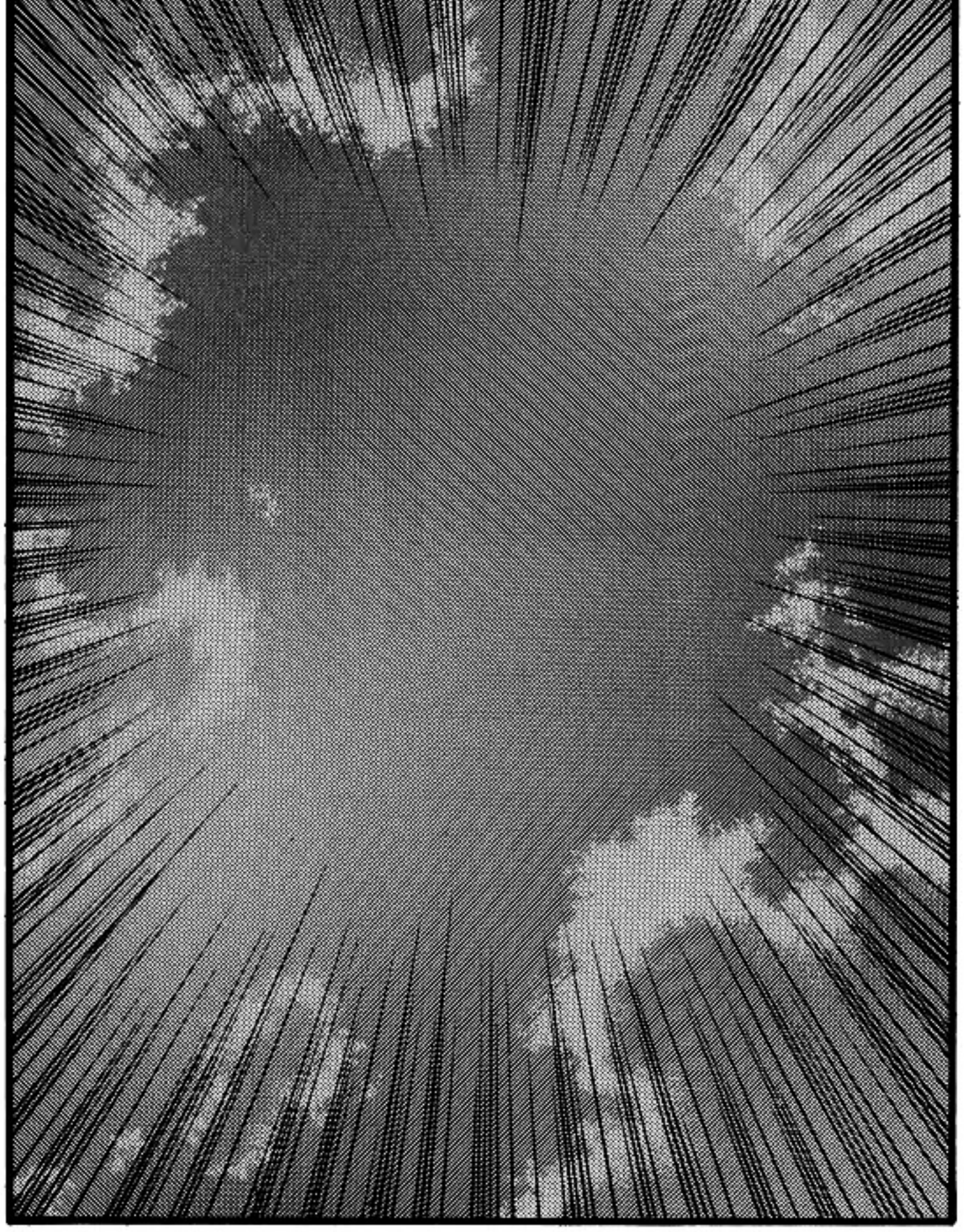


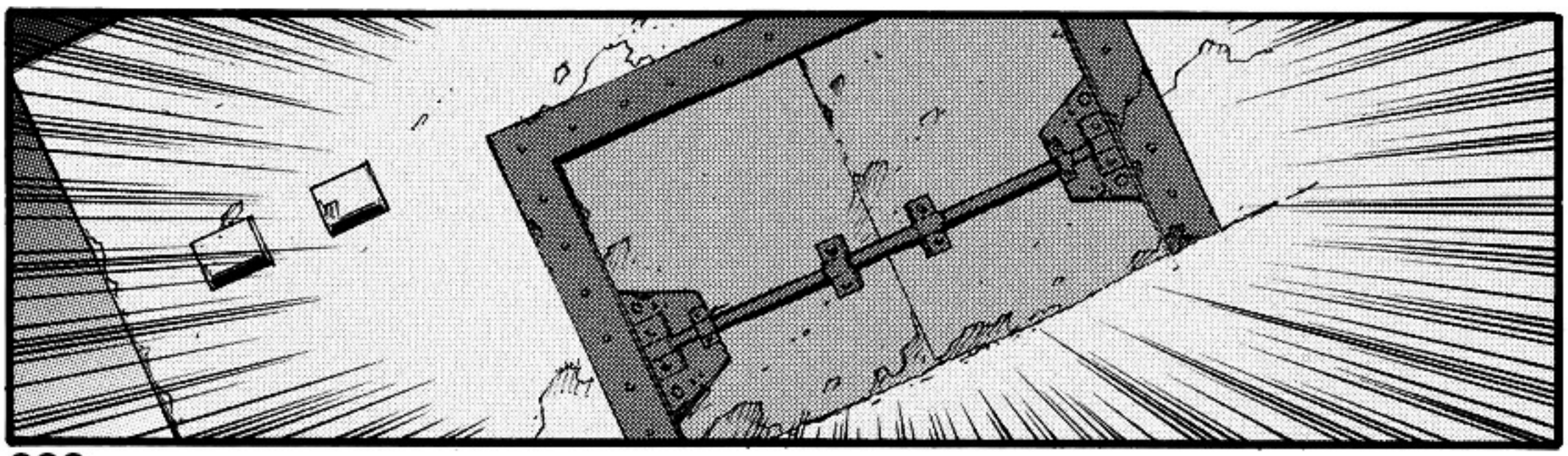



CLENCH



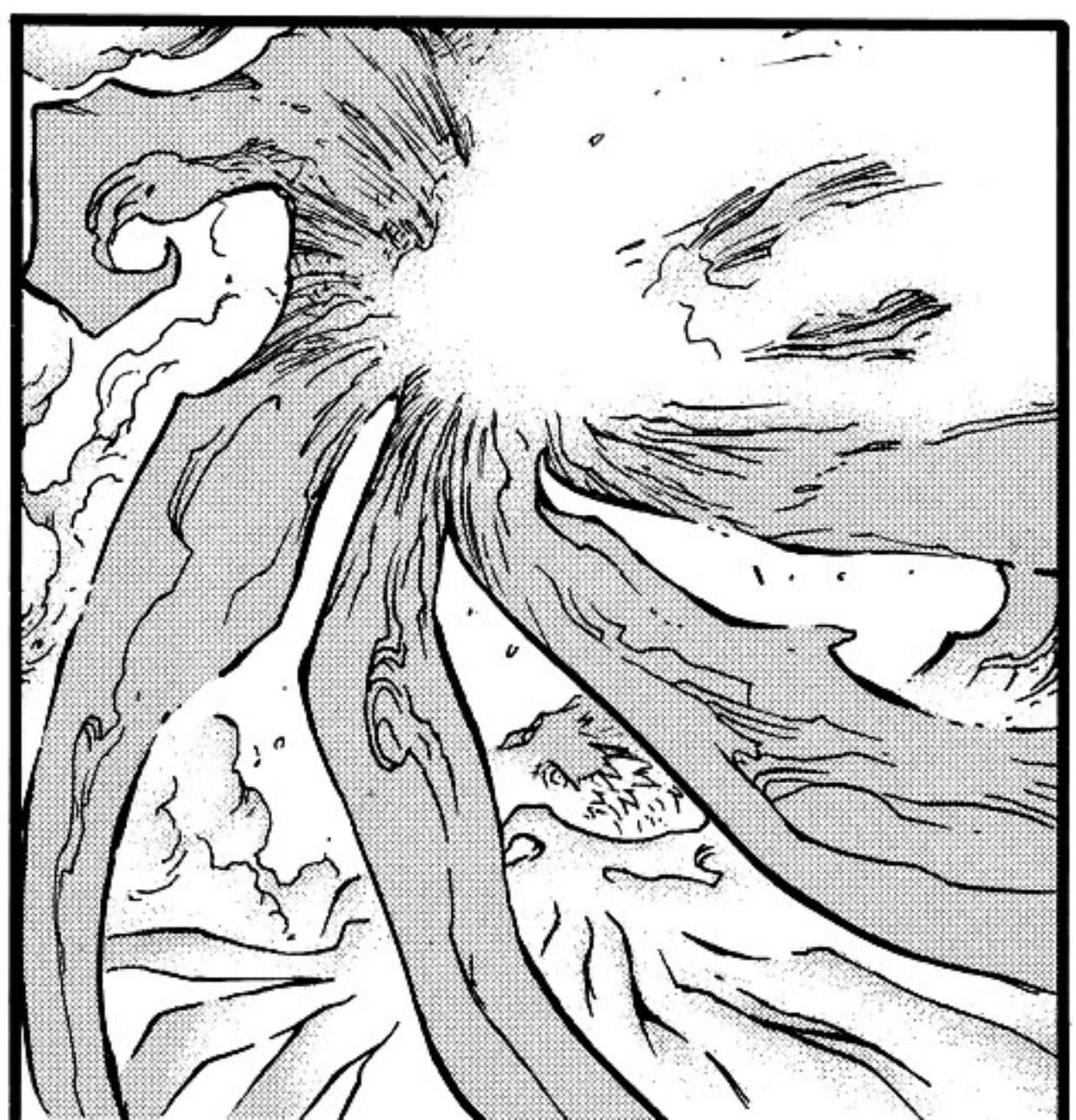




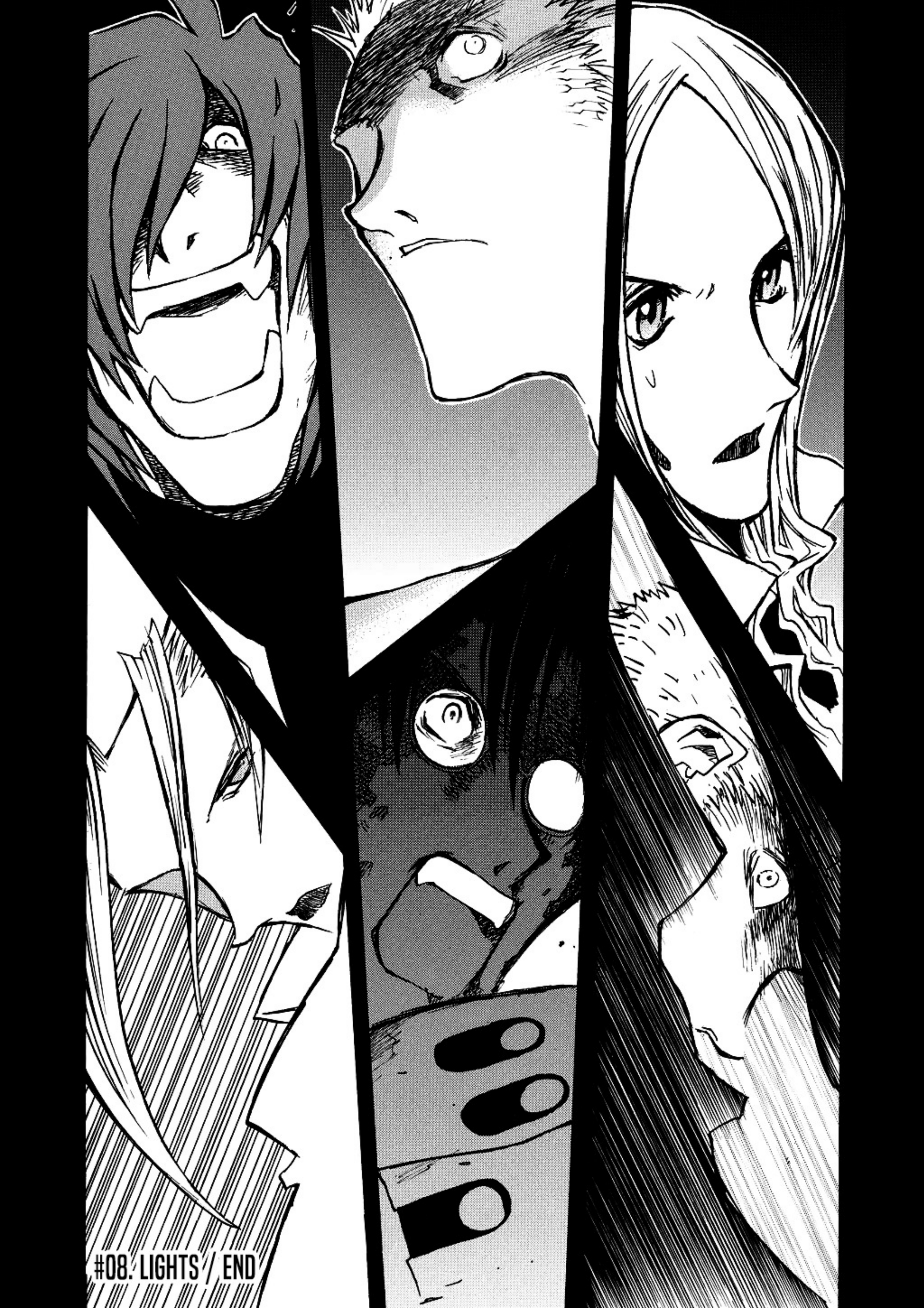


HEY THERE...

...DEADMEAT.



WE FINALLY MEET...
KNIVES!


#08. LIGHTS / END

TRIGUN MAXIMUM

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!

HE ASKED ME...

WHY DO YOU SERVE KNIVES?

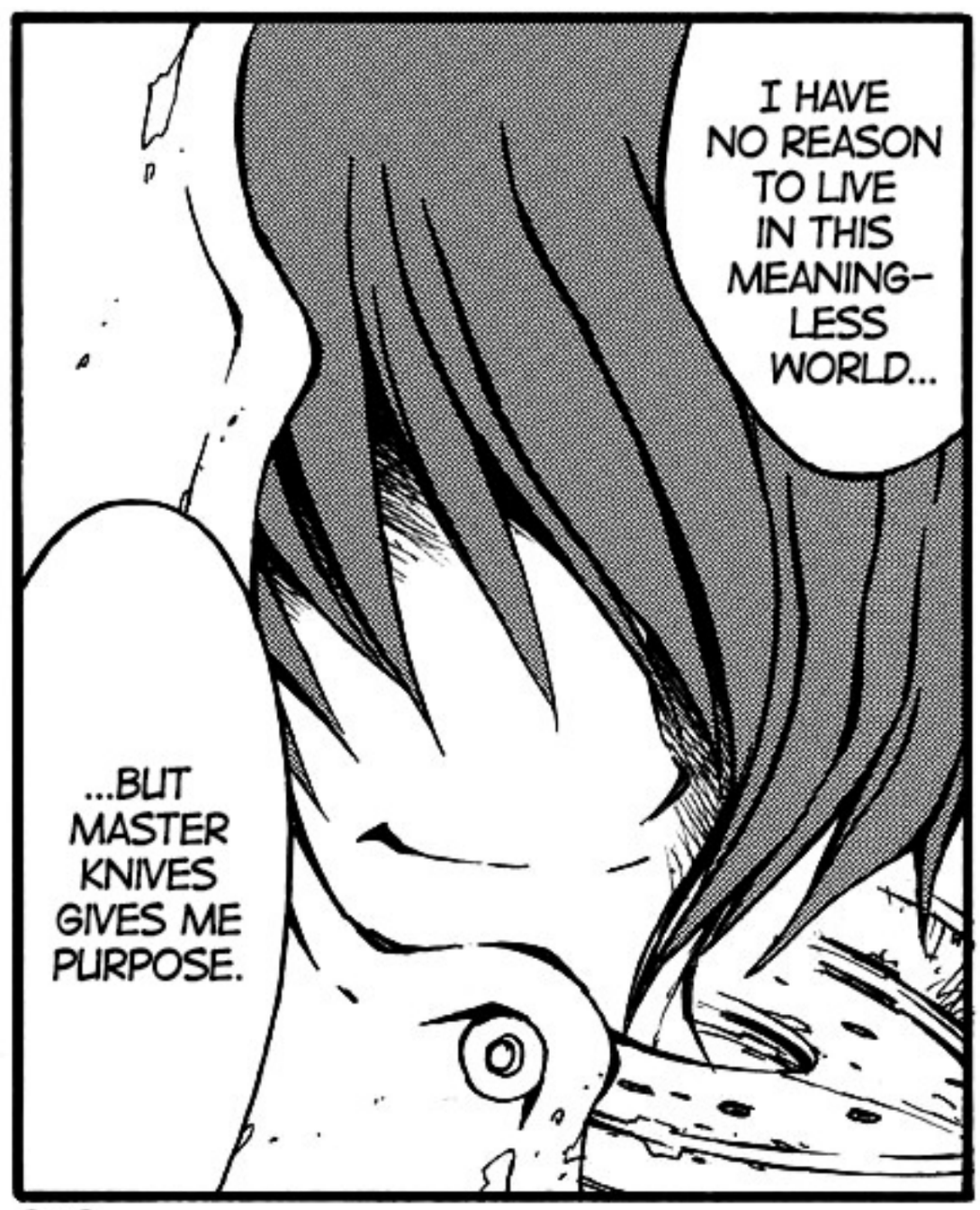
OFTEN HAVE I ANSWERED THAT SAME FOOLISH QUESTION.

SO... WHY?!

EVEN YOU WILL BE KILLED IN TIME.

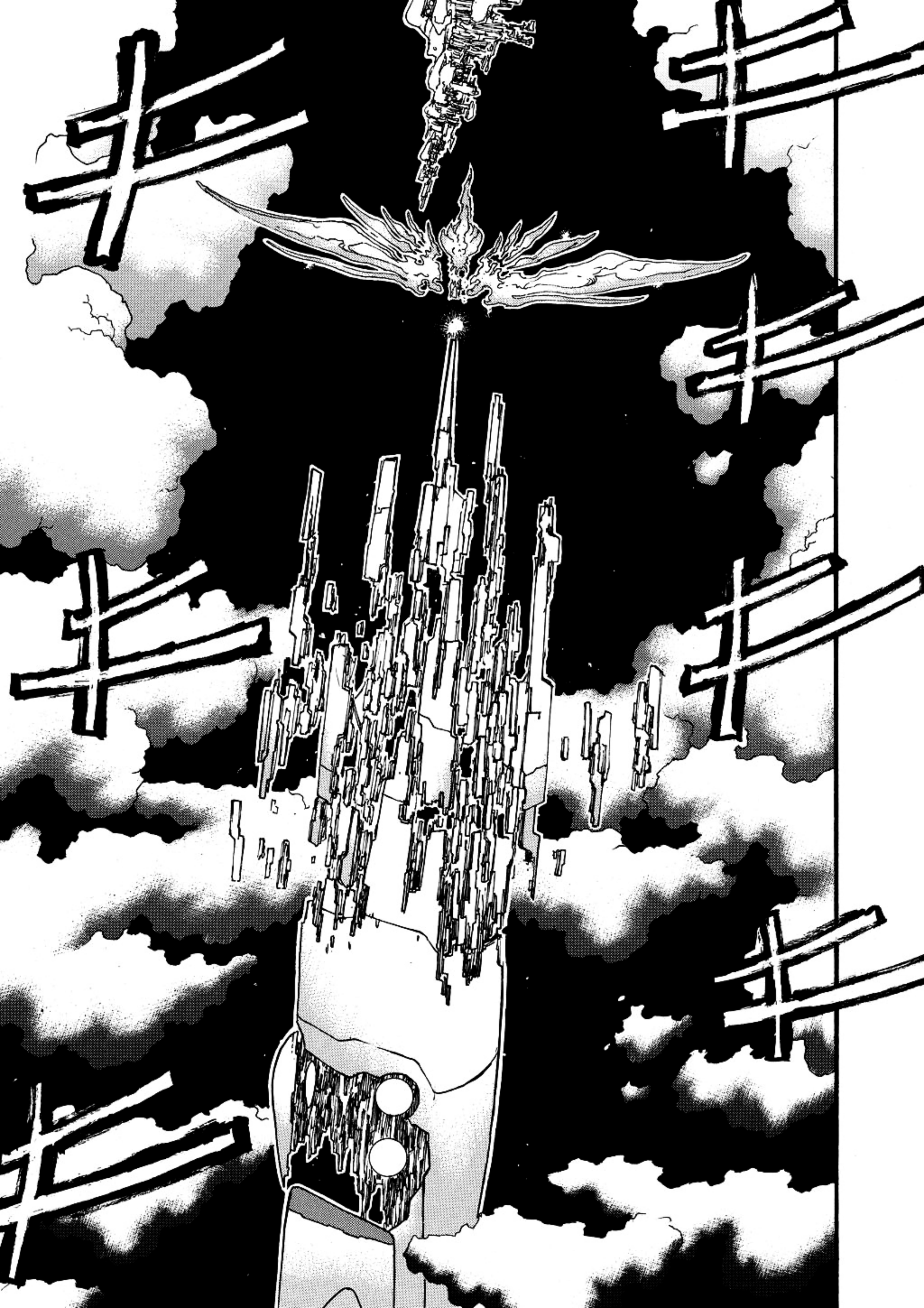
...THAT HE'LL MAKE NO EXCEP-TIONS IN HIS CRUSADE AGAINST HUMAN-ITY.

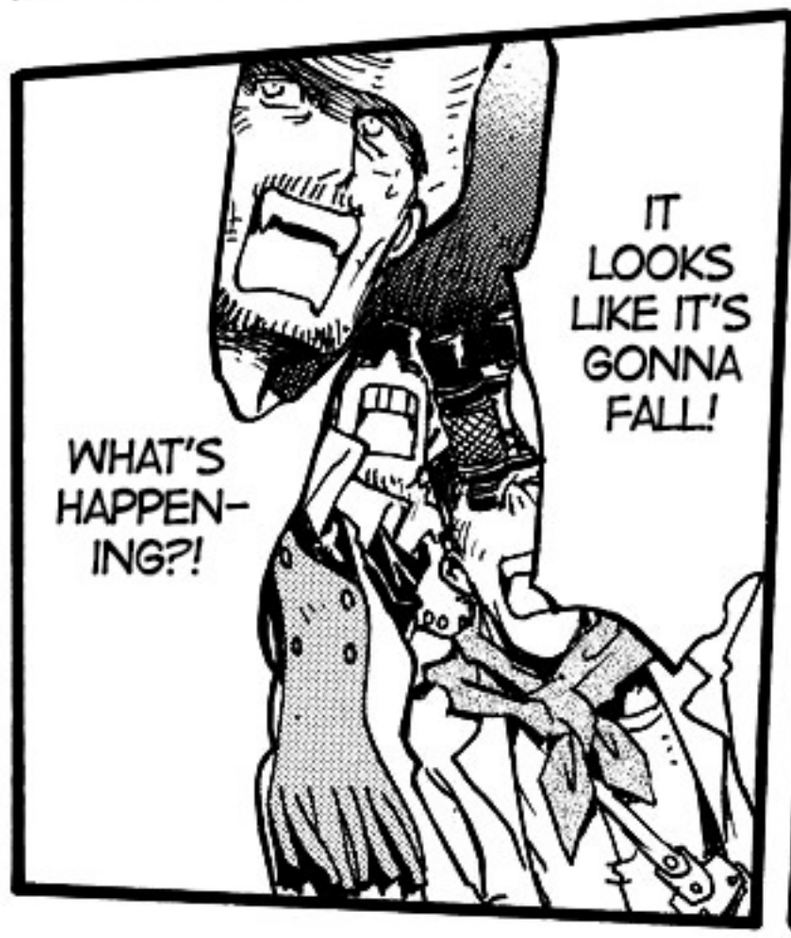
YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW...



#09. TWO PEOPLE AGAINST THE WORLD

FINALLY... I WAS WONDER-ING WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP.
FUNNY THAT IT TOOK YOU THIS LONG.

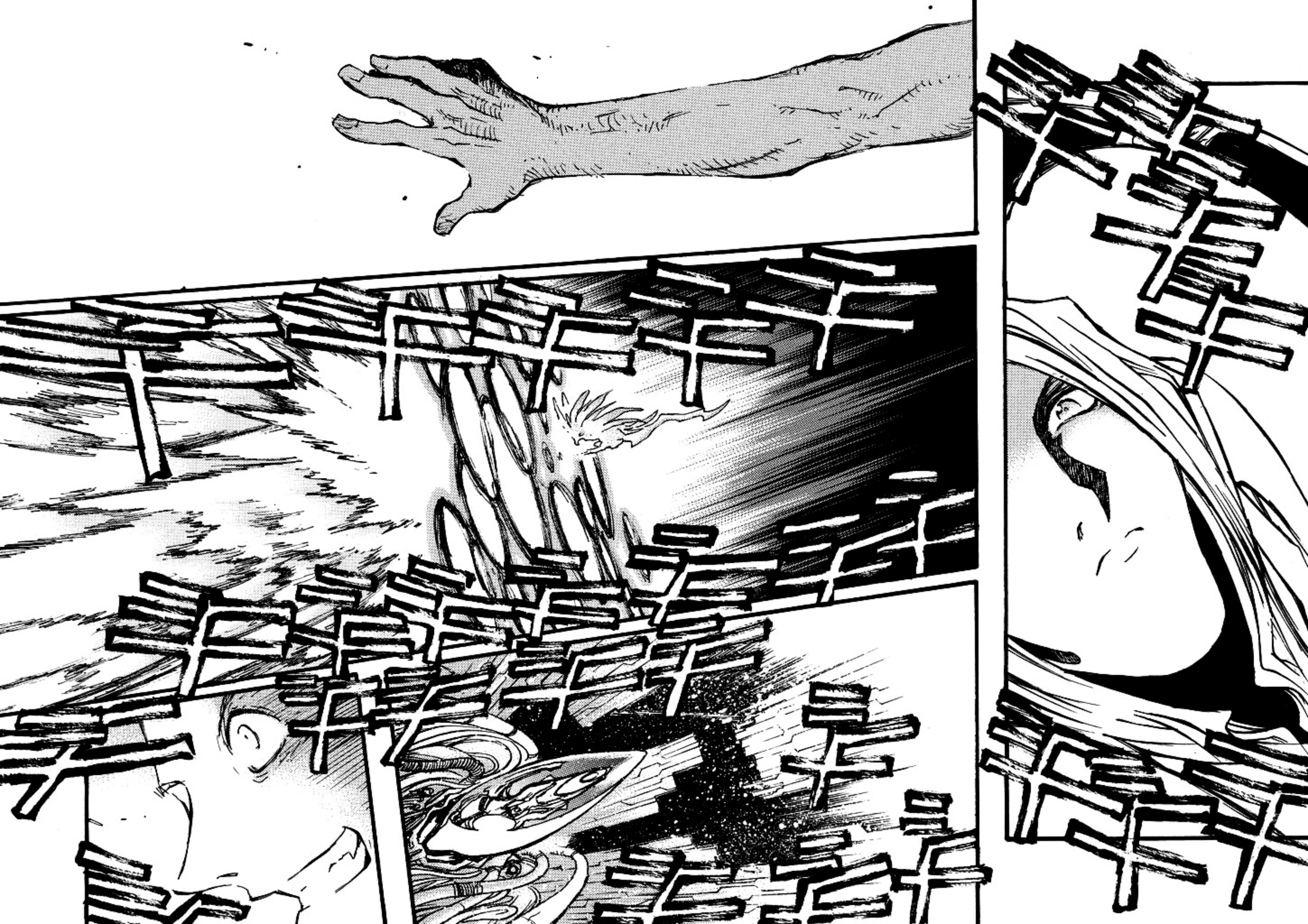


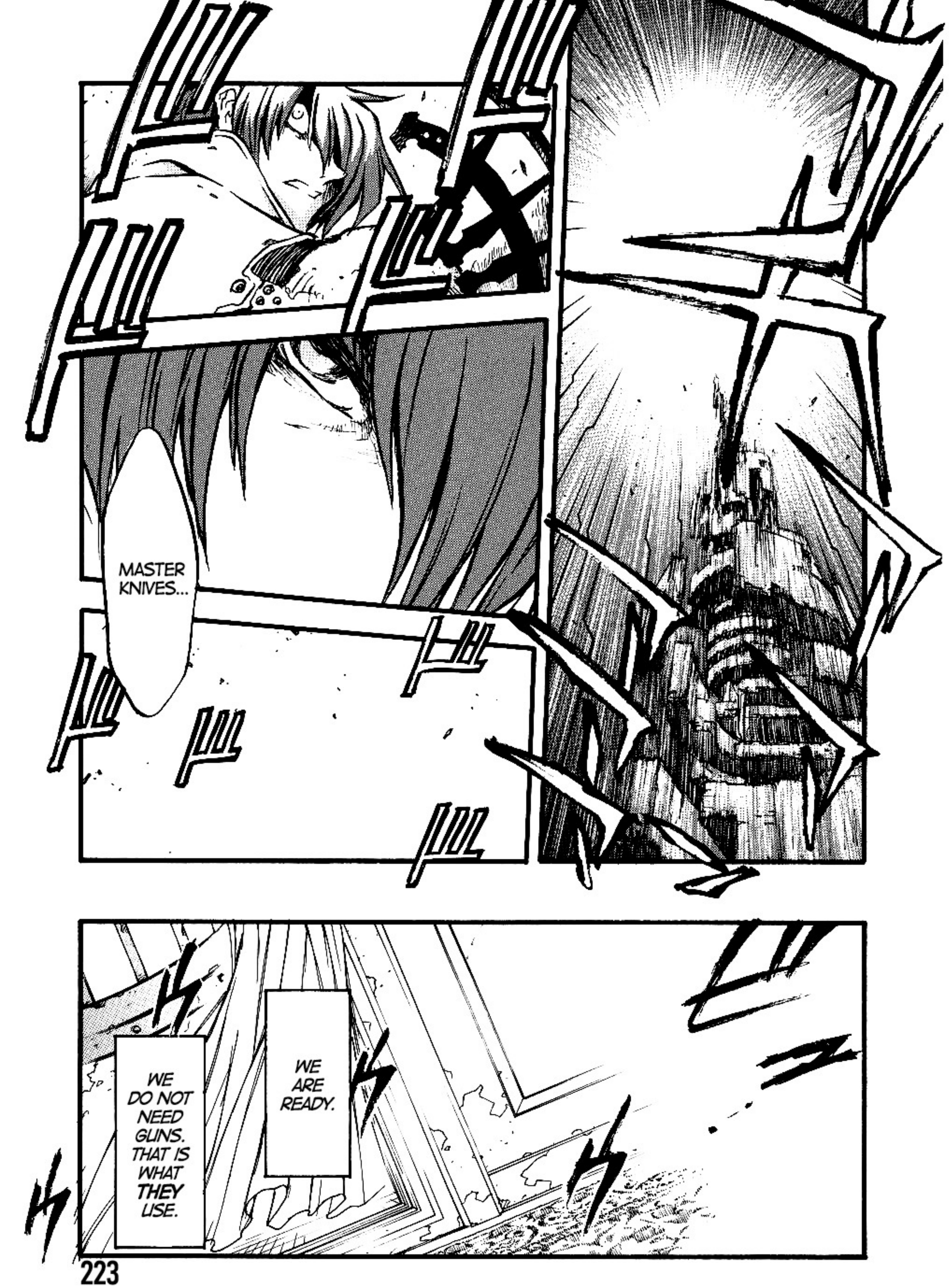

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA FALL!

HOW DOES IT DO THAT?!
NO WAY!

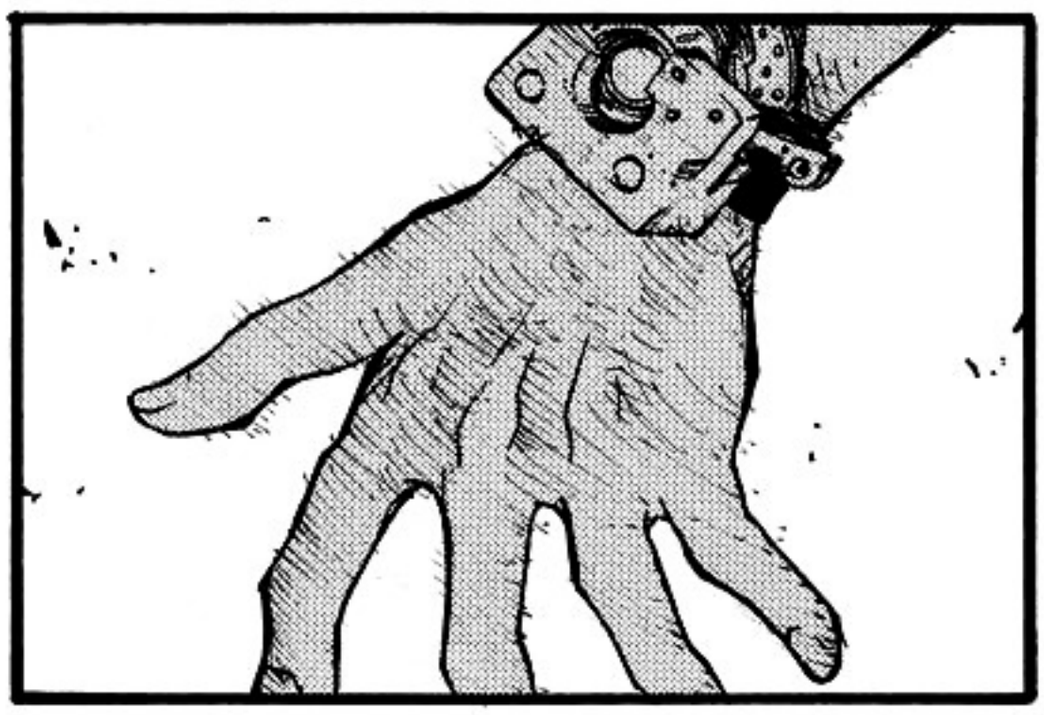
AN EARTH SHIP?!
WHAT'S THAT?!

VASH...
……




MASTER KNIVES...
WE DO NOT NEED GUNS. THAT IS WHAT THEY USE.
WE ARE READY.

IT ONLY TOOK ME TEN DAYS TO INSERT STRINGS INTO EACH OF THEIR SPINES.



1301 PEOPLE DWELT WITHIN THAT FORTRESS LIKE A SEA OF VOMIT.

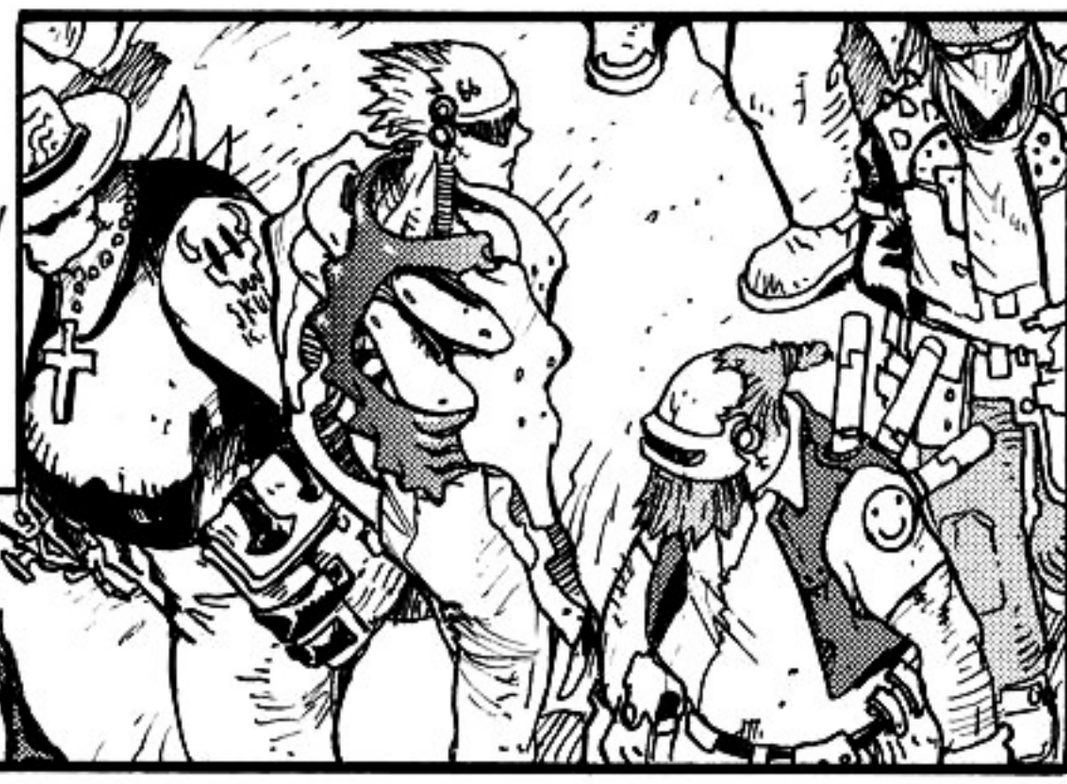
I WOULD KILL THEM ALL AT ONCE.

I HON-ED MY SKILLS IN SE-CRET.

NO ONE NOTICED, AND NO ONE EVER WOULD.

THEY WOULD SCREAM AND CRY, CURSING THE FUTILITY OF IT ALL, TERRIFIED OF THE SHEER BRUTALITY THEY WOULD WITNESS.

RIP THE FLESH AND SKIN FROM THEIR BONES.

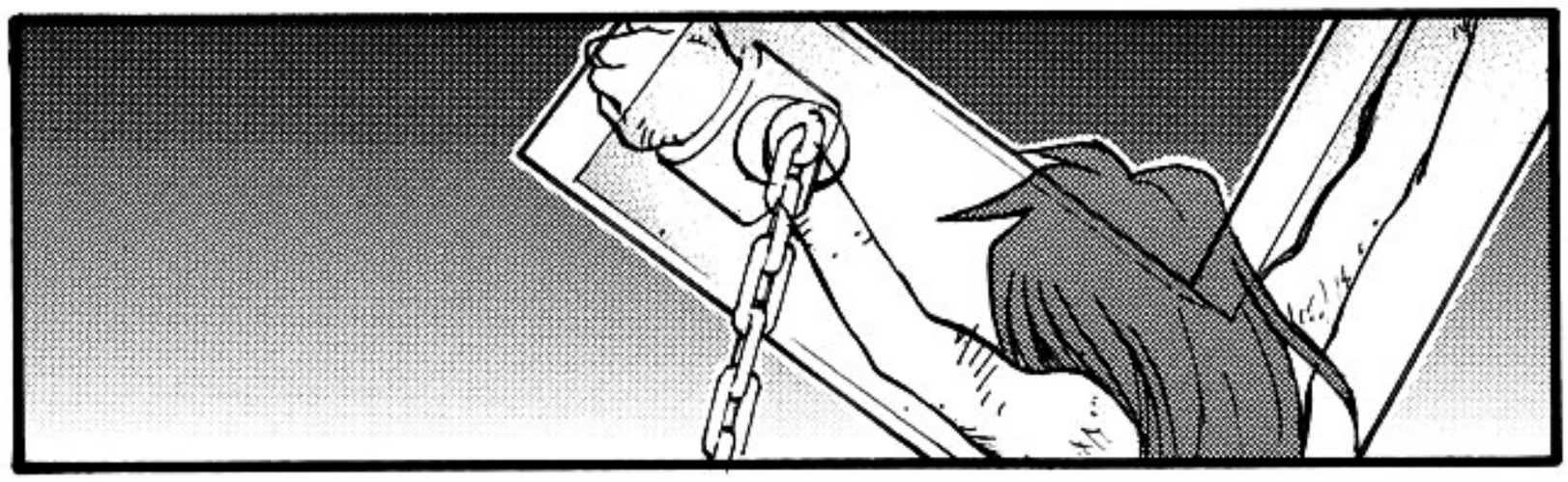


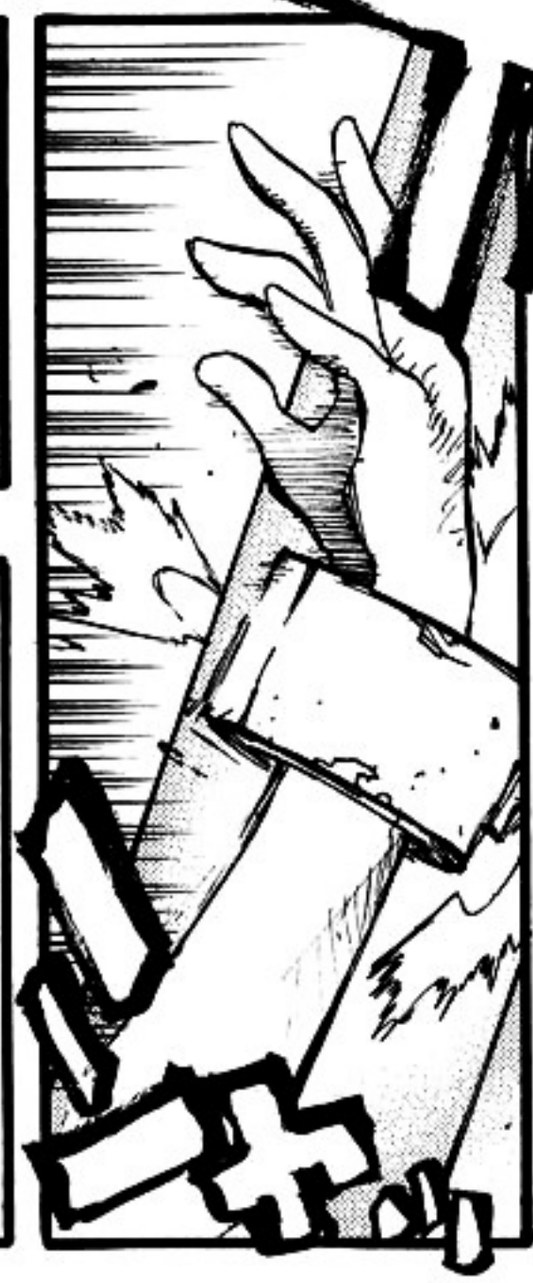
THEY WOULD SHOOT EACH OTHER BE-TWEEN THE EYES.

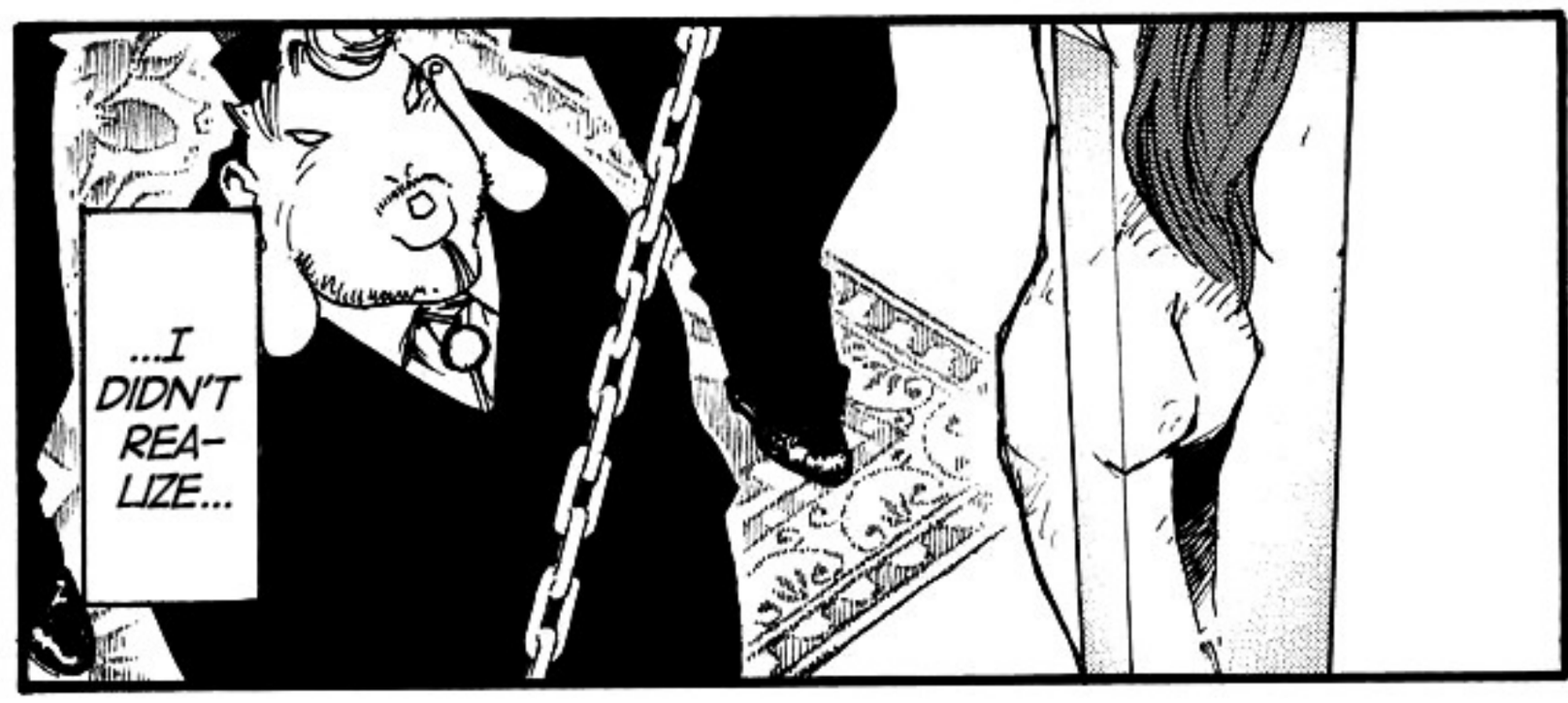
THE SACKS OF SHIT WHO USED ME FOR PLEASURE, THE PARASITES WHO SIMPLY STOOD BY AND DID NOTHING.

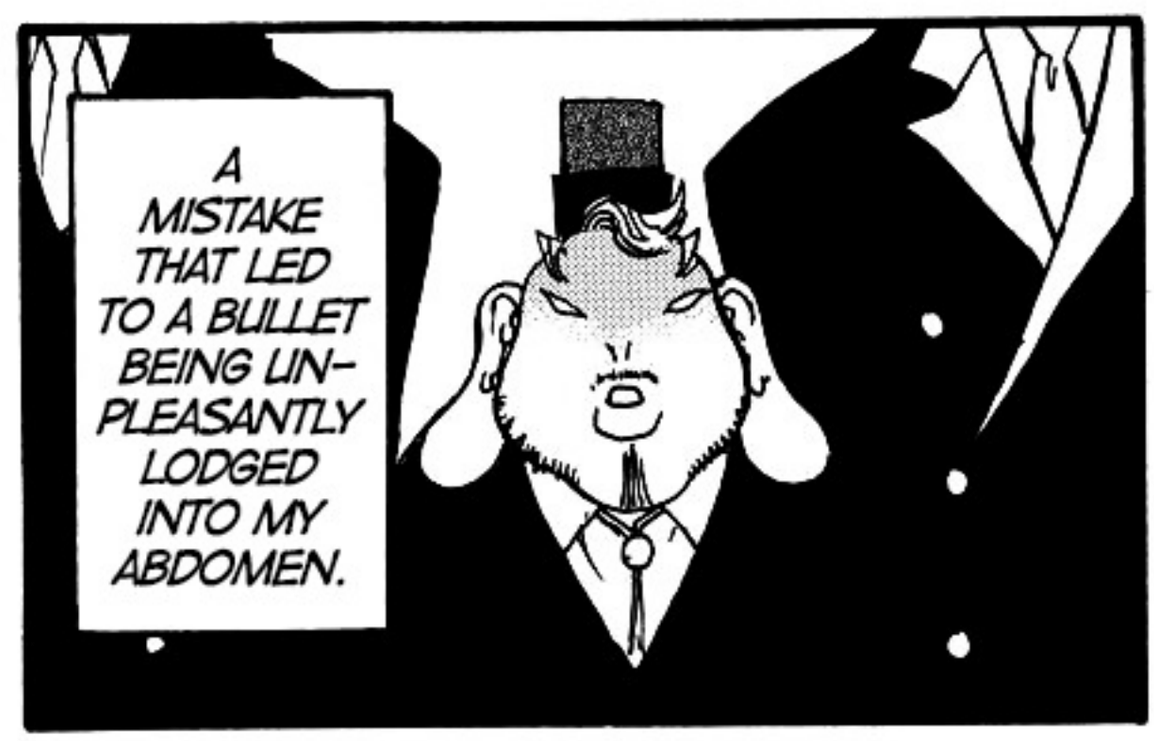
HOW-EVER...

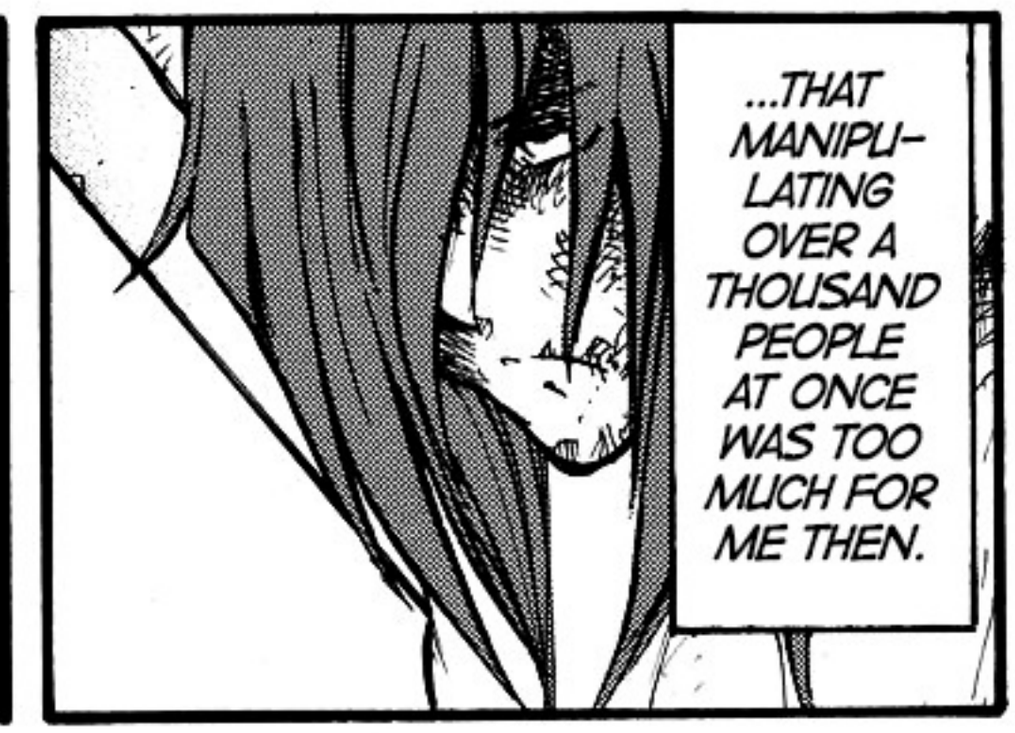
AND THEY WOULD LEARN THAT THERE IS NO MERCY FOR THEIR KIND.



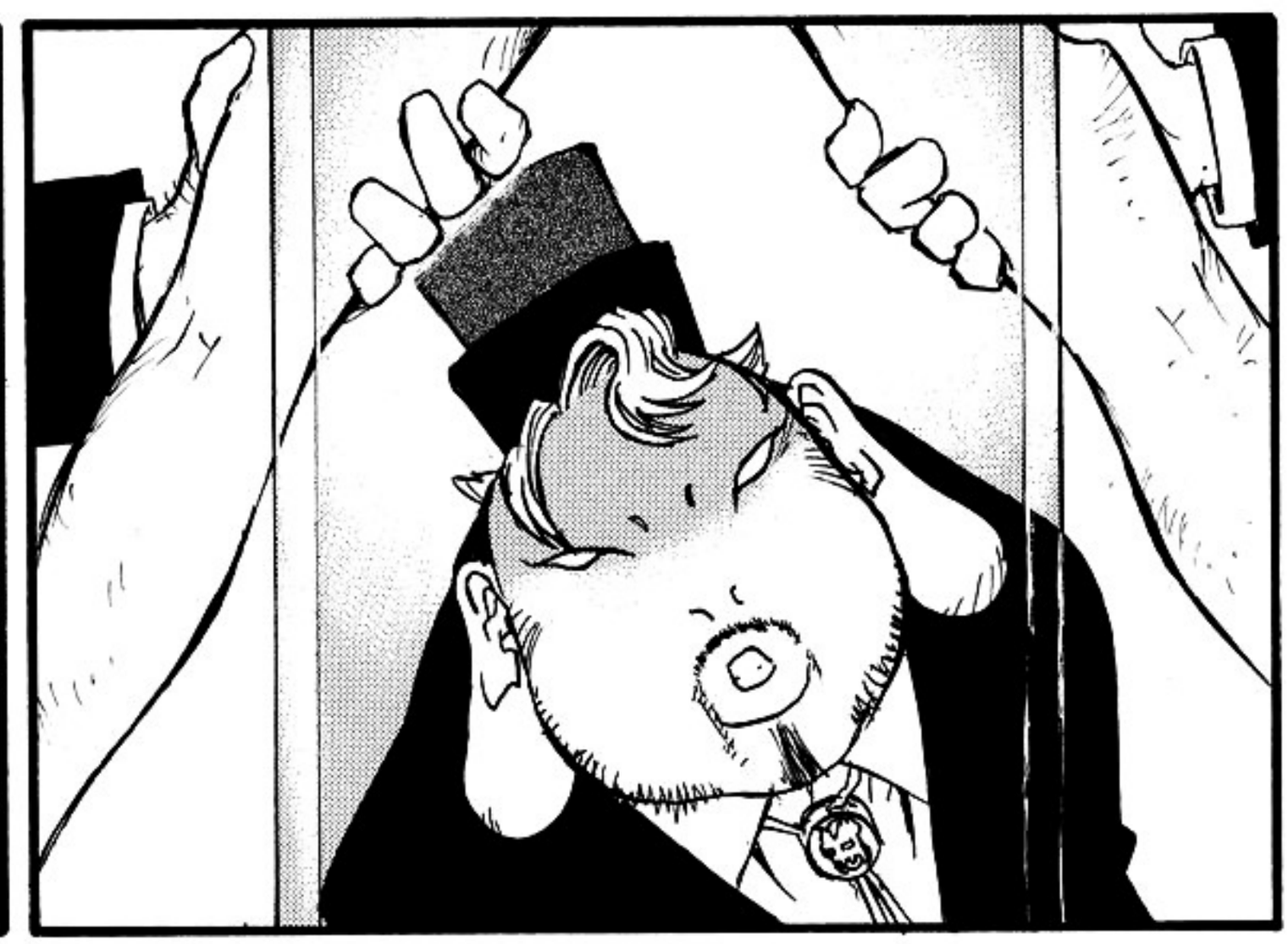


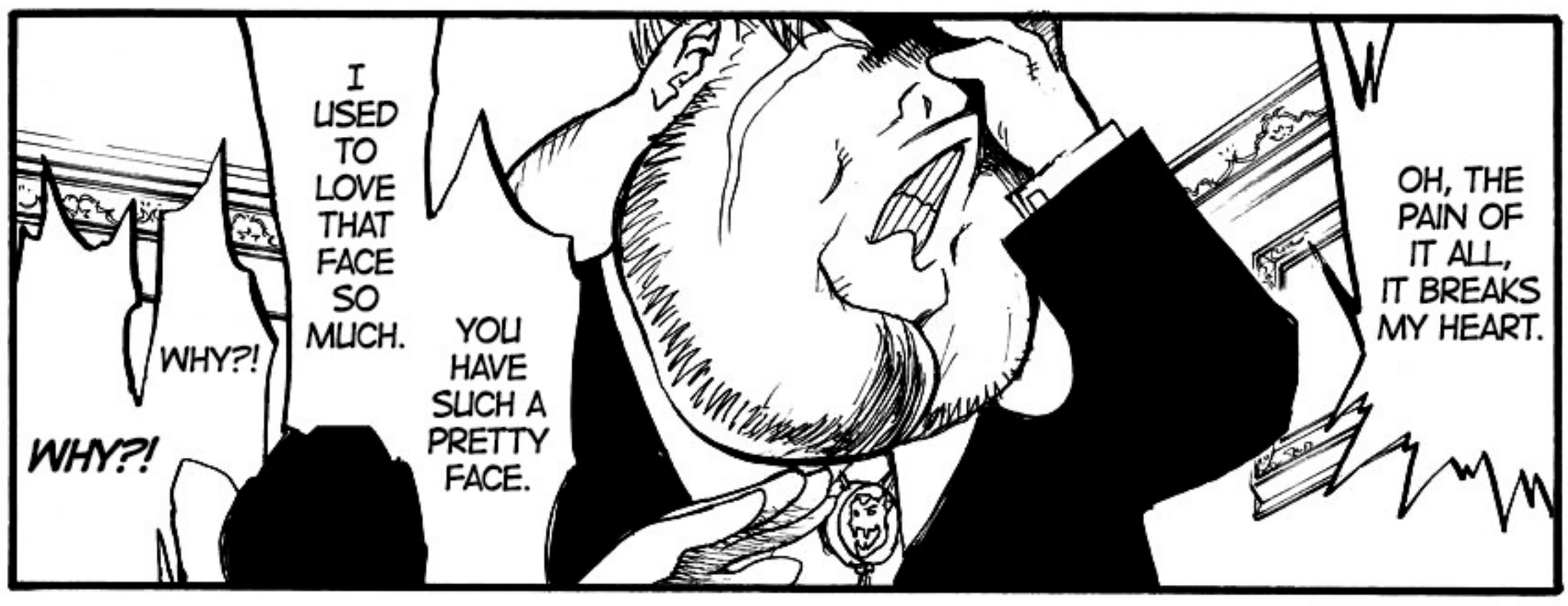

...I DIDN'T REA-LIZE...

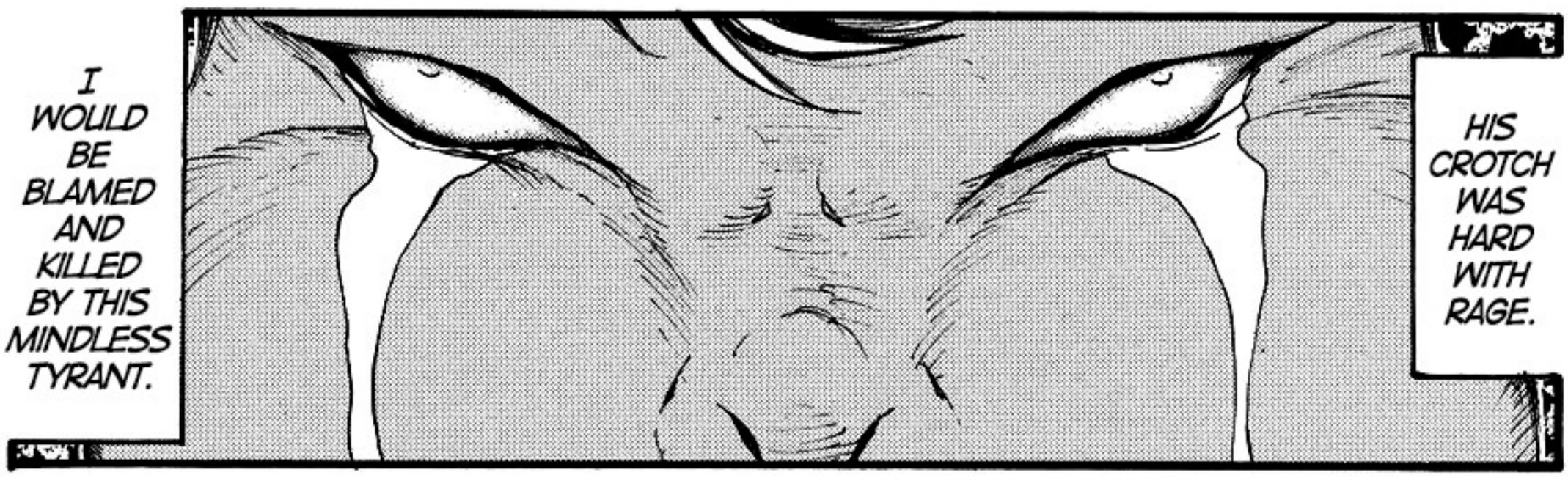

A MISTAKE THAT LED TO A BULLET BEING UN-PLEASANTLY LODGED INTO MY ABDOMEN.


...THAT MANIPU-LATING OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE AT ONCE WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME THEN.

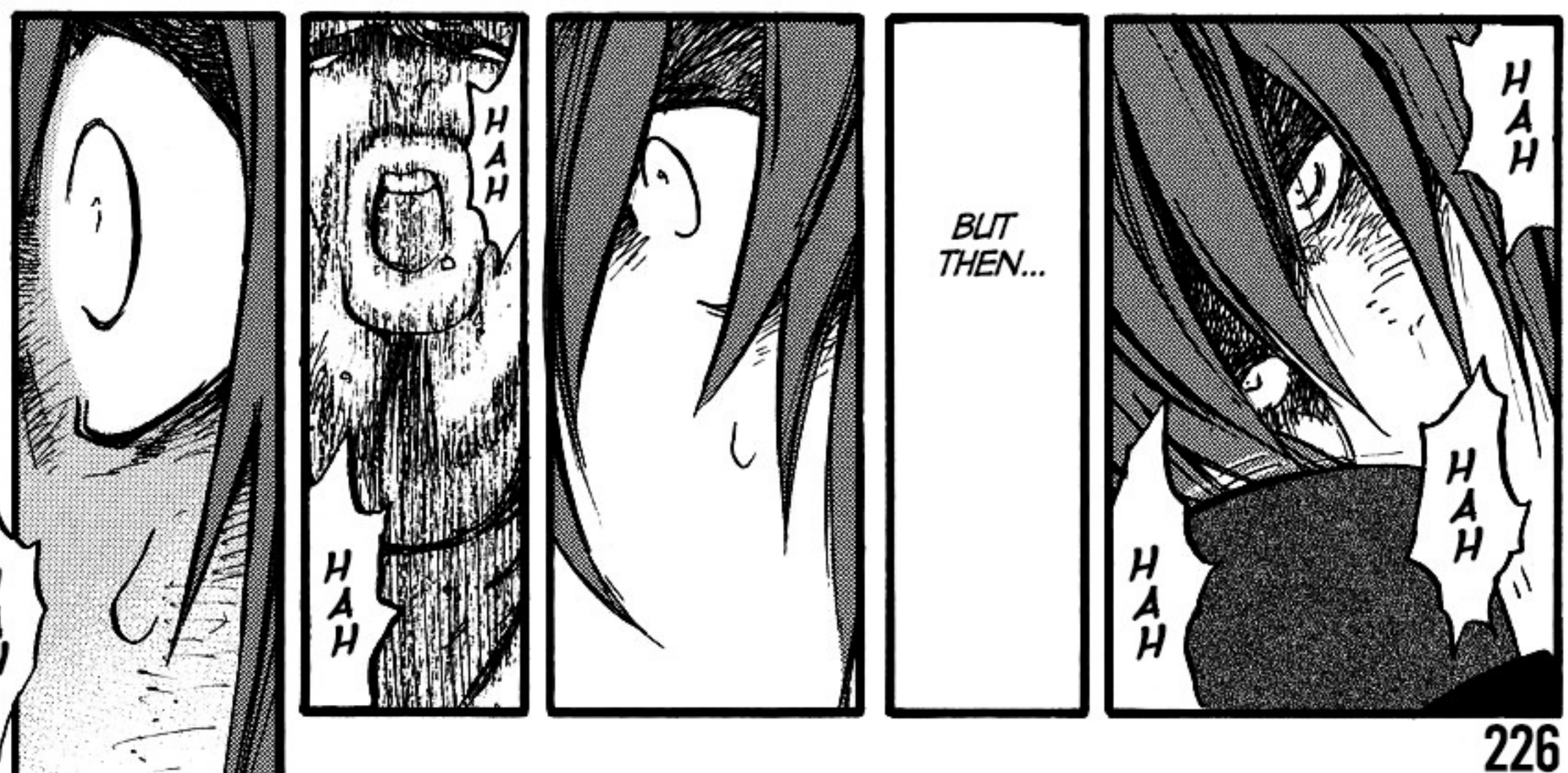
THAT YOU WOULD DO SUCH A THING...

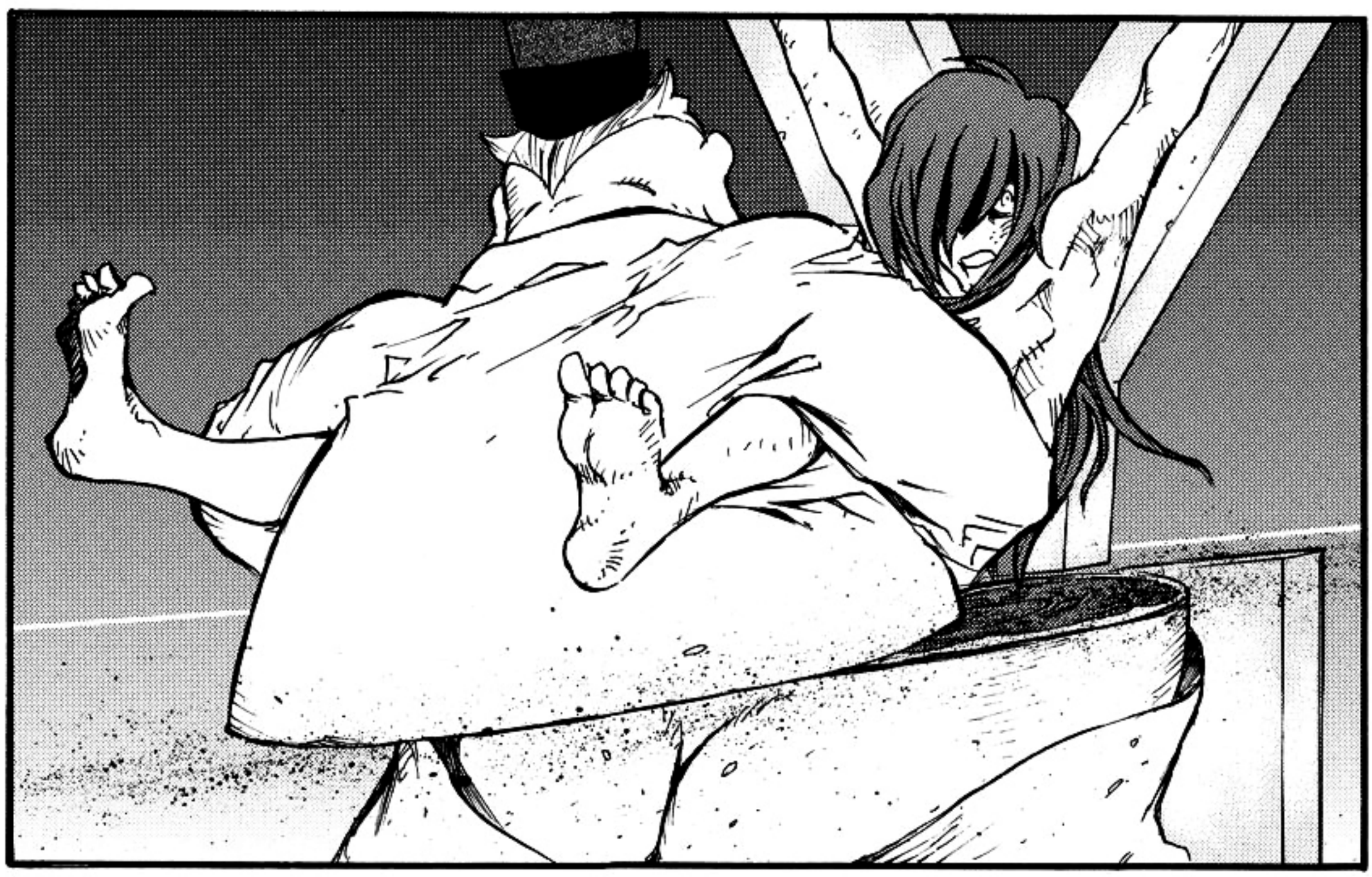


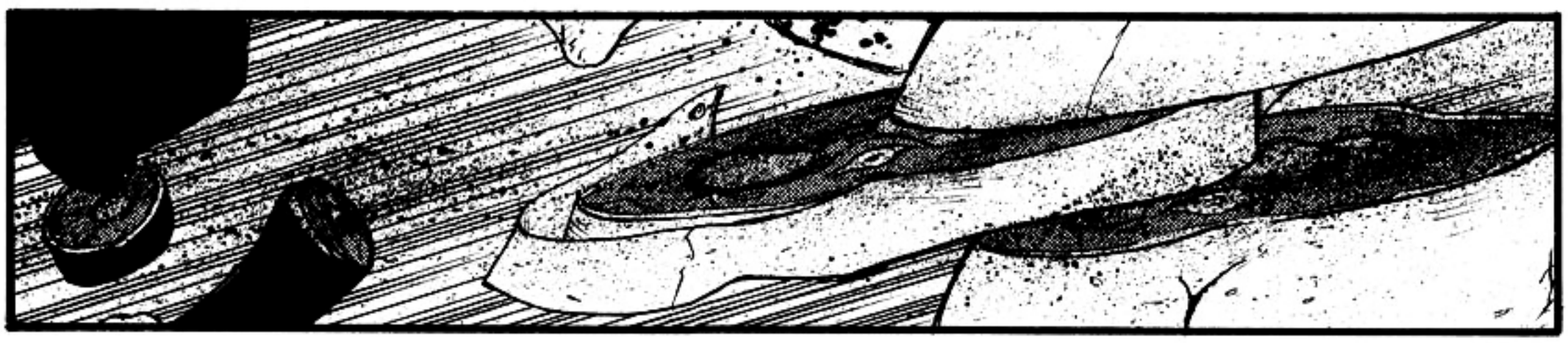

WHY?!
WHY?!
I USED TO LOVE THAT FACE SO MUCH.
YOU HAVE SUCH A PRETTY FACE.
OH, THE PAIN OF IT ALL, IT BREAKS MY HEART.

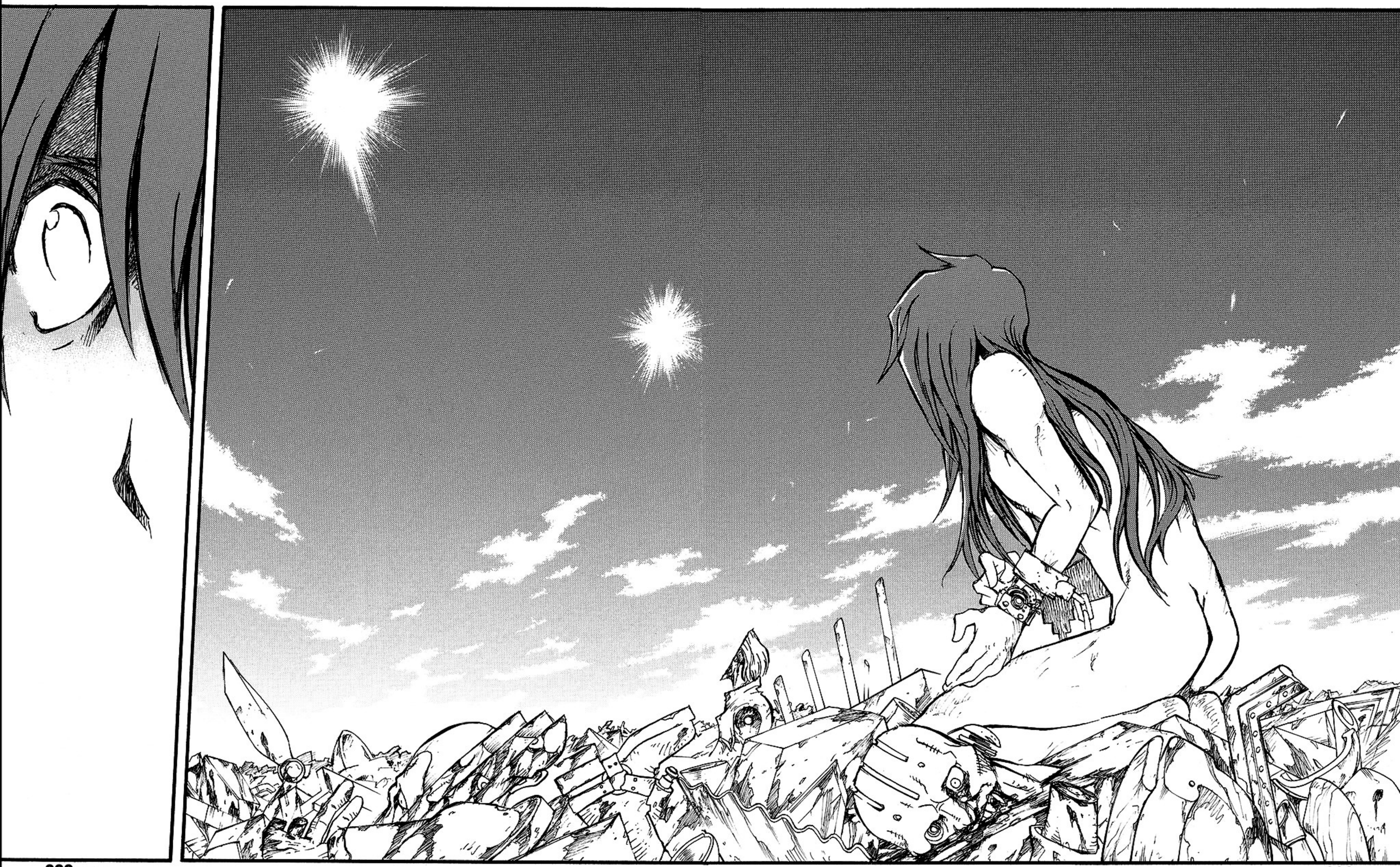

I WOULD BE BLAMED AND KILLED BY THIS MINDLESS TYRANT.
HIS CROTCH WAS HARD WITH RAGE.

I EX-PECTED THE WORST.
HE WAS THE TYPE WHO WOULD TAKE EVERY-THING AND LEAVE NOTHING BEHIND.


HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
BUT THEN...
HAH
HAH
HAH

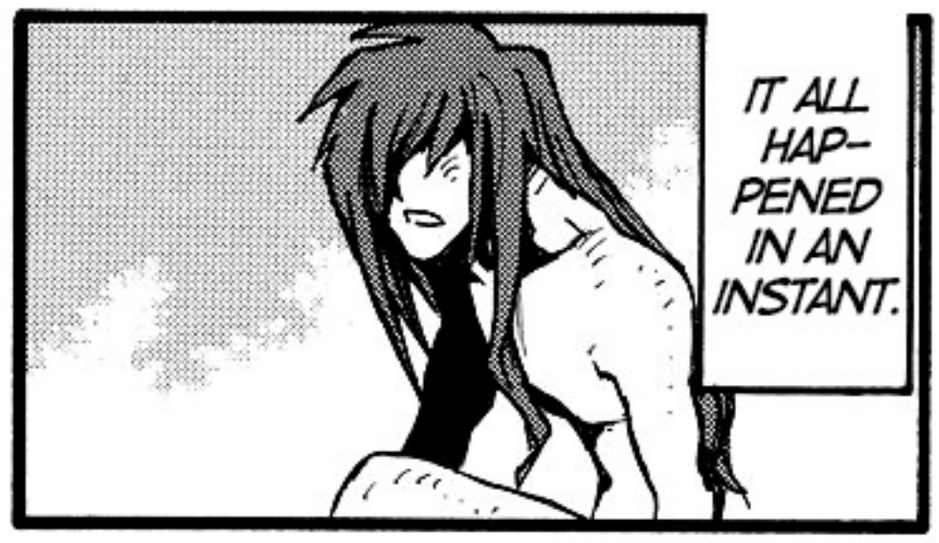






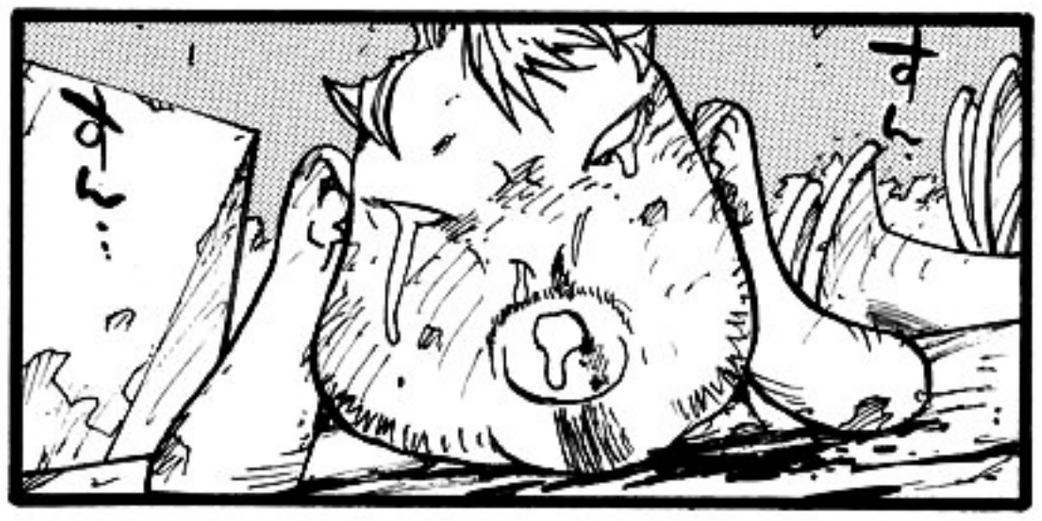
THOSE CUTS...

PRECISE, THOROUGH, VIVID.



...THE TYRANT WAS STILL CON-SCIOUS.

...WERE SO CLEAN...



NOW I COULD TORTURE HIM FOR THE LAST MO-MENTS OF HIS LIFE.

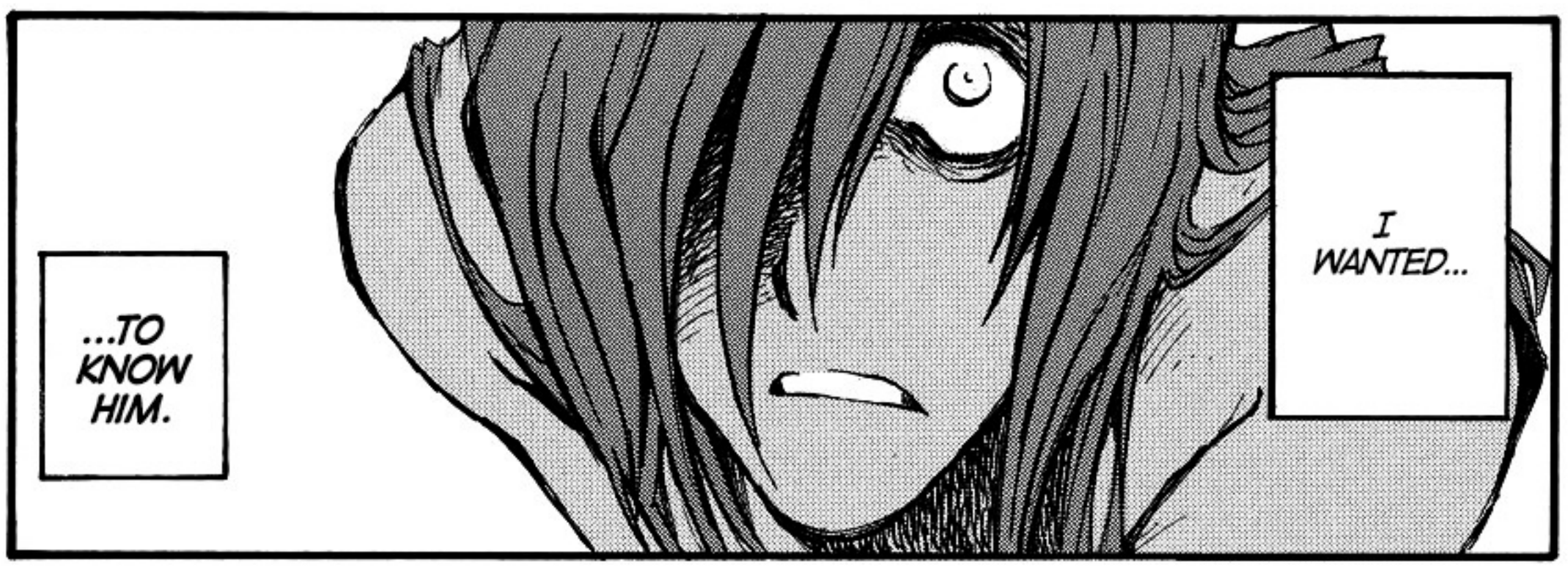
I WEPT TEARS OF JOY.

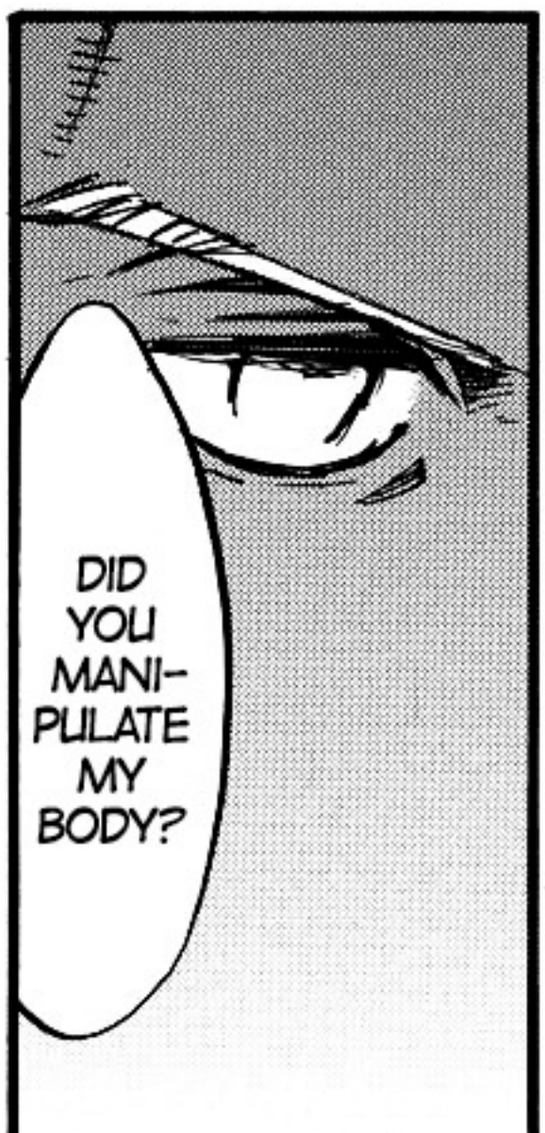
HE WAS TRULY A BEING WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE COULD BRING THIS SUFFOCATING WORLD TO AN END.

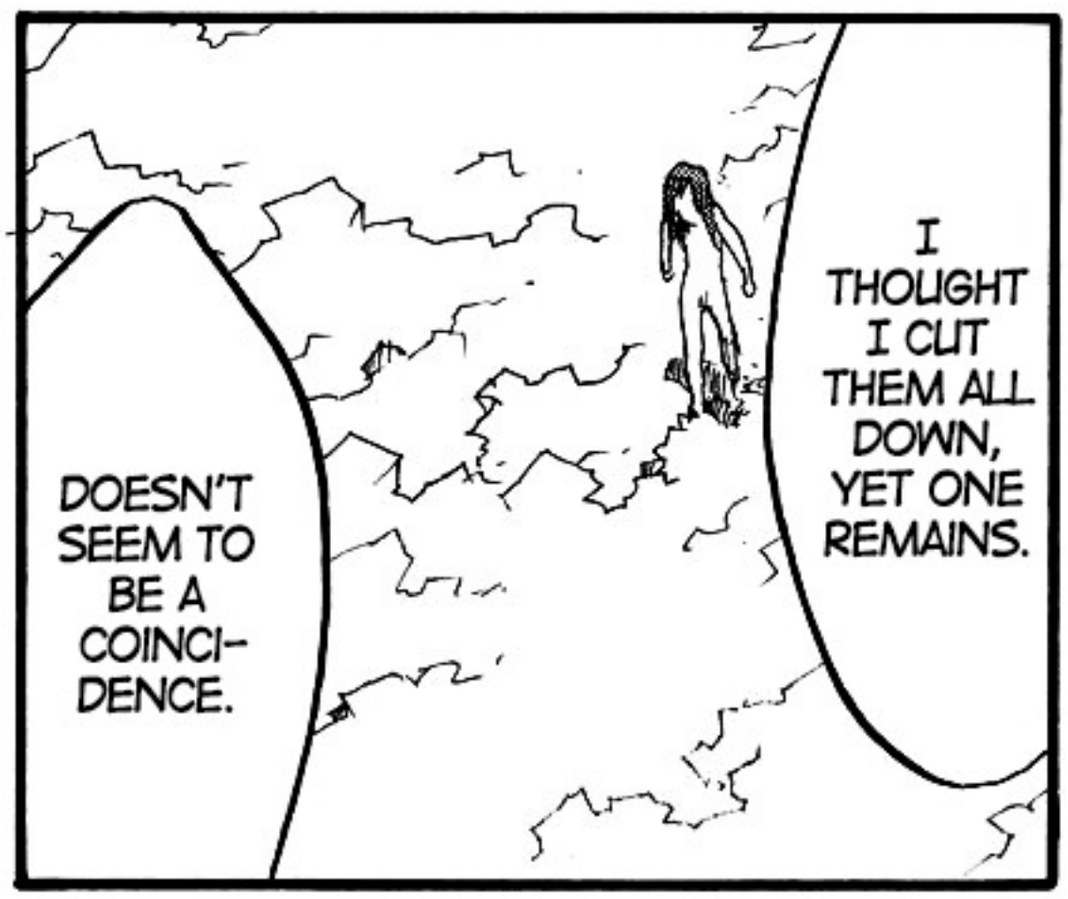
BUT MORE THAN THAT...

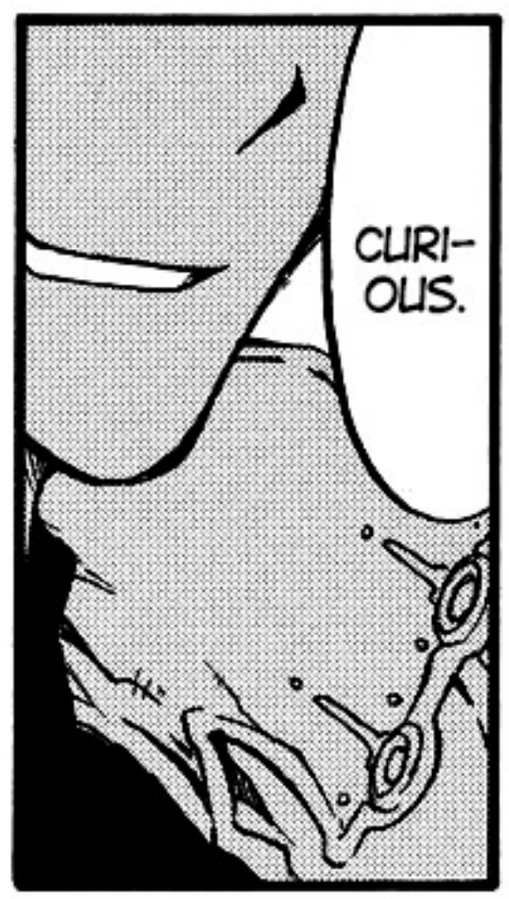
THERE WERE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE...

...THE RUSH OF EMOTIONS I FELT.

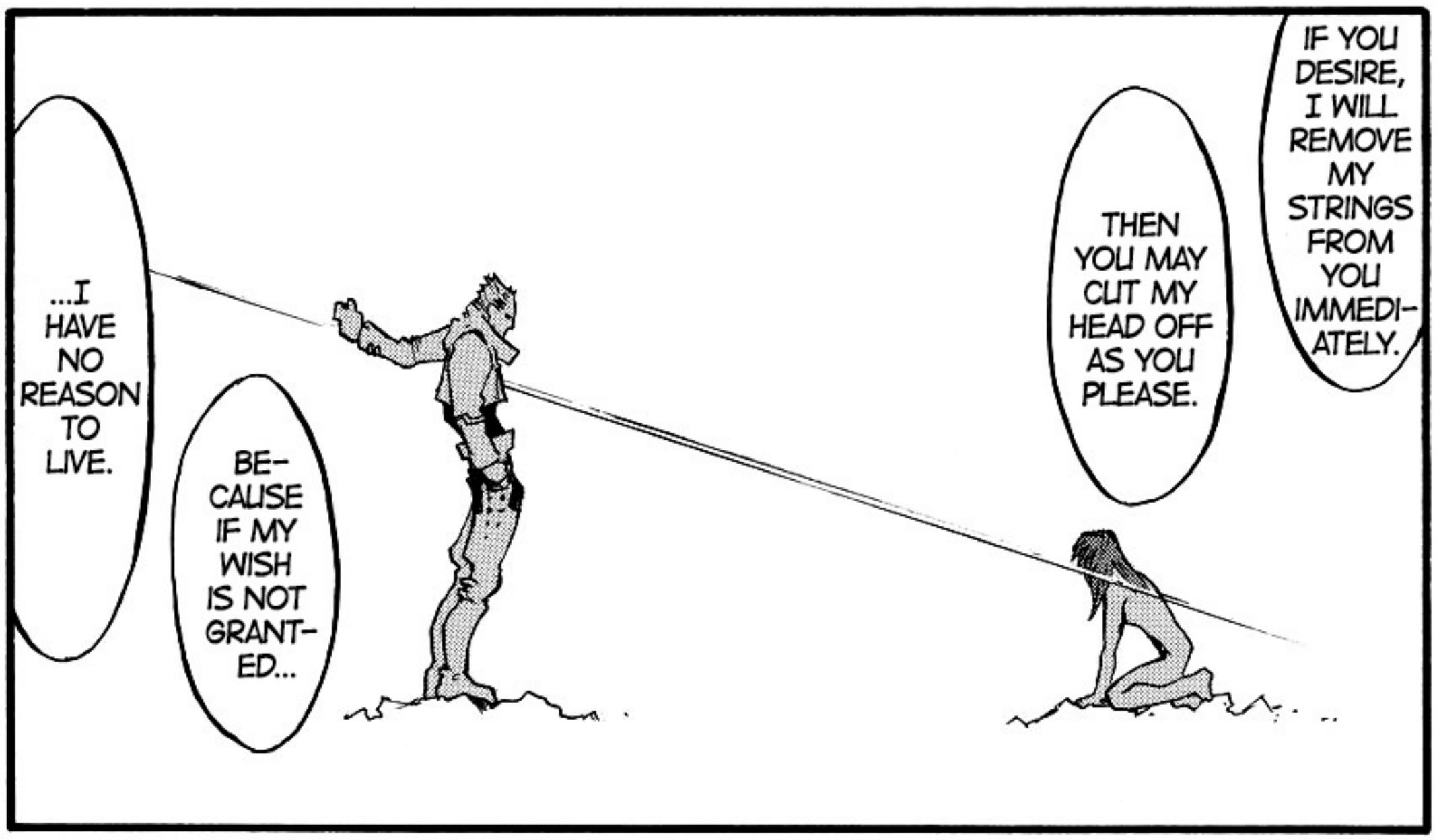


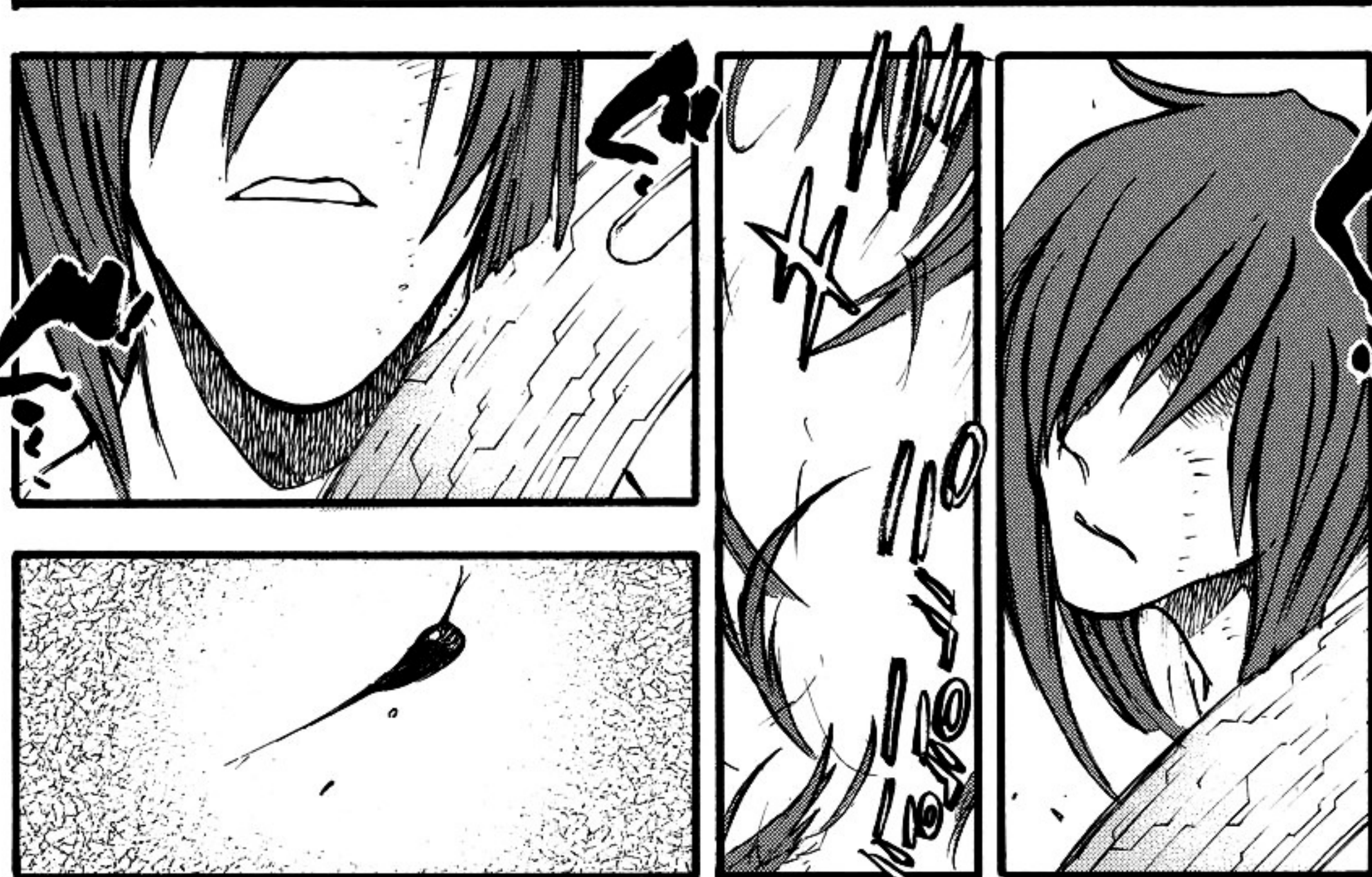


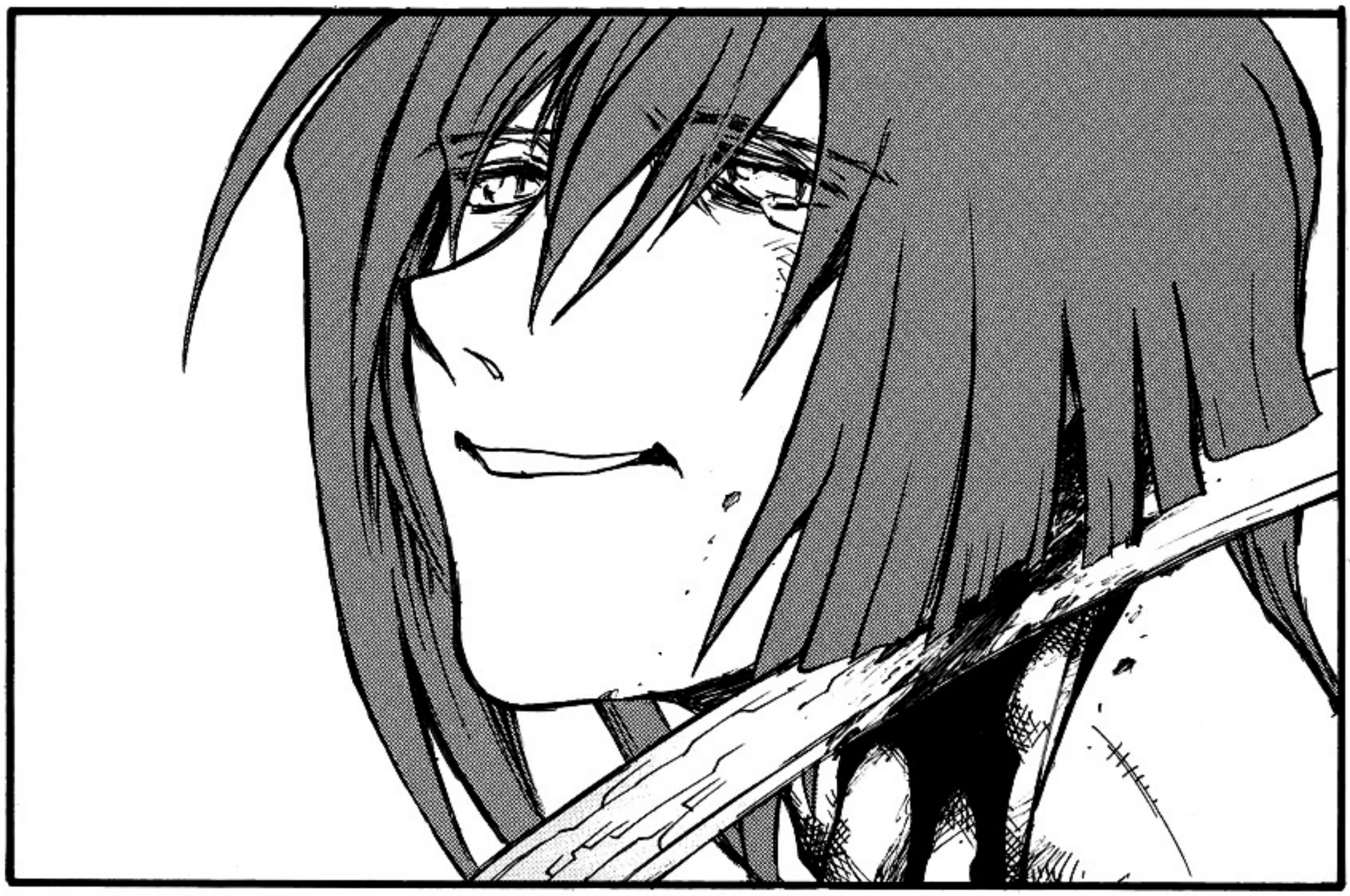


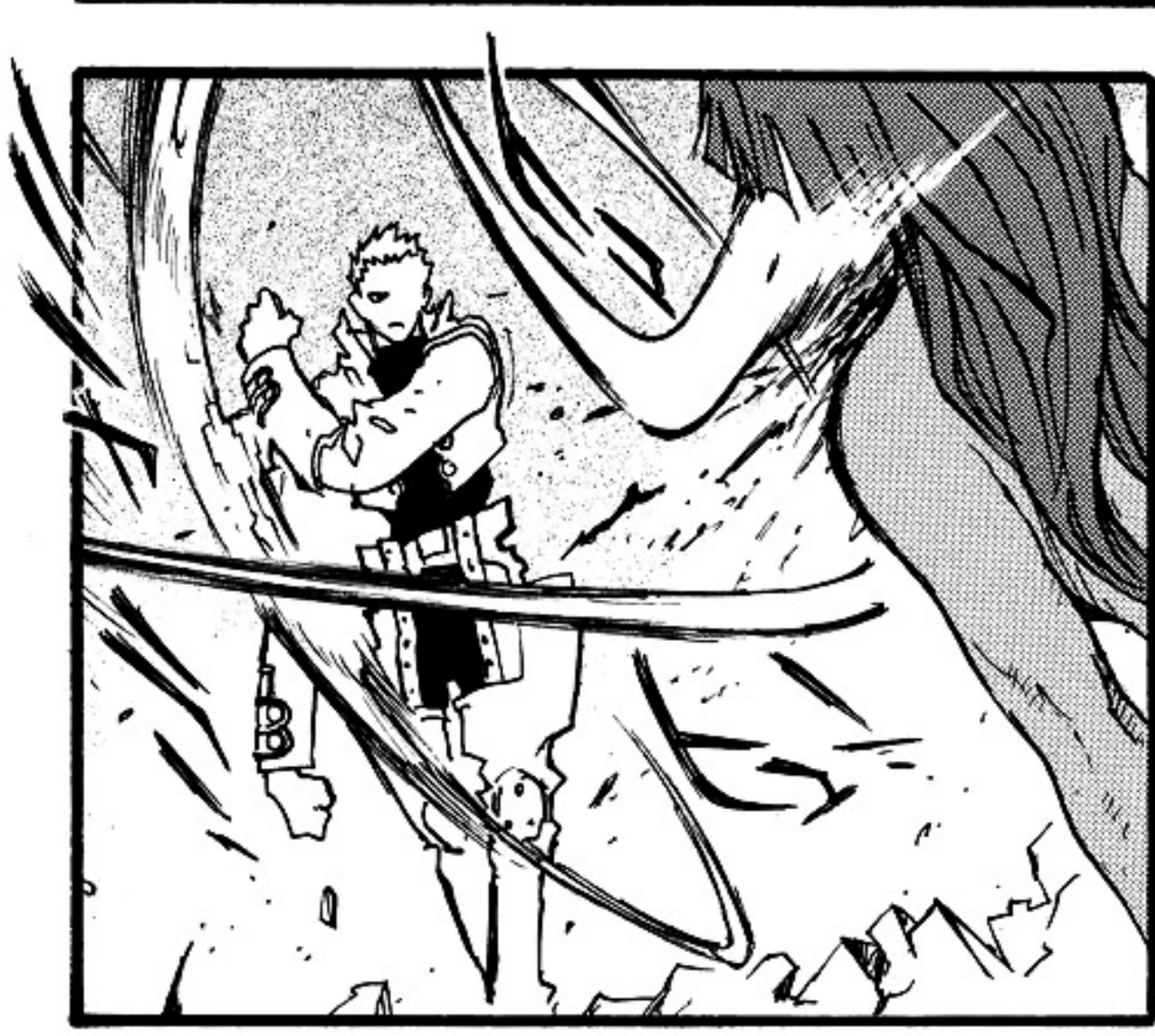


...TO SERVE BY YOUR SIDE.
ALLOW ME...
...
...


...I HAVE NO REASON TO LIVE.
BE-CAUSE IF MY WISH IS NOT GRANT-ED...
THEN YOU MAY CUT MY HEAD OFF AS YOU PLEASE.
IF YOU DESIRE, I WILL REMOVE MY STRINGS FROM YOU IMMEDI-ATELY.

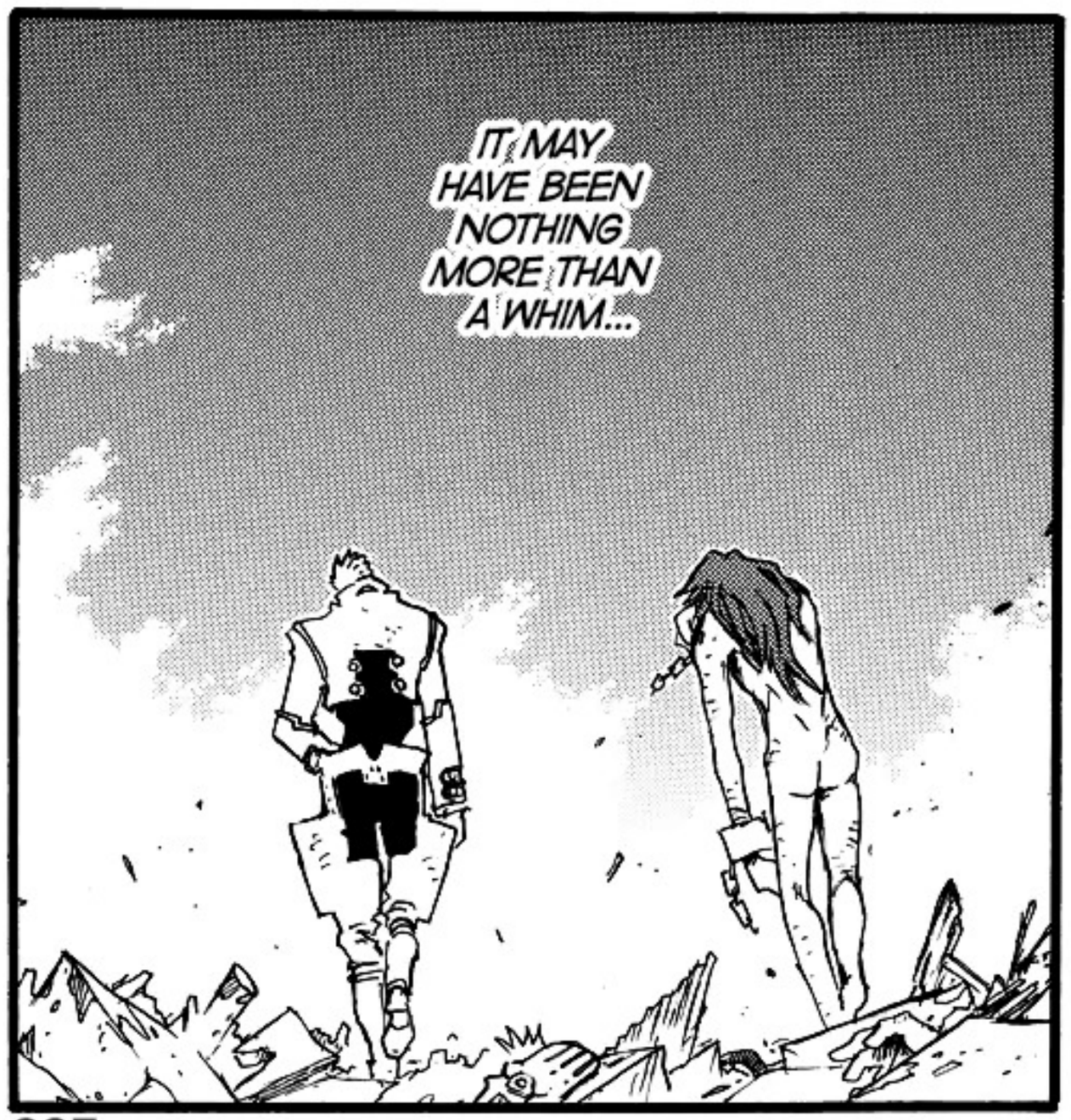


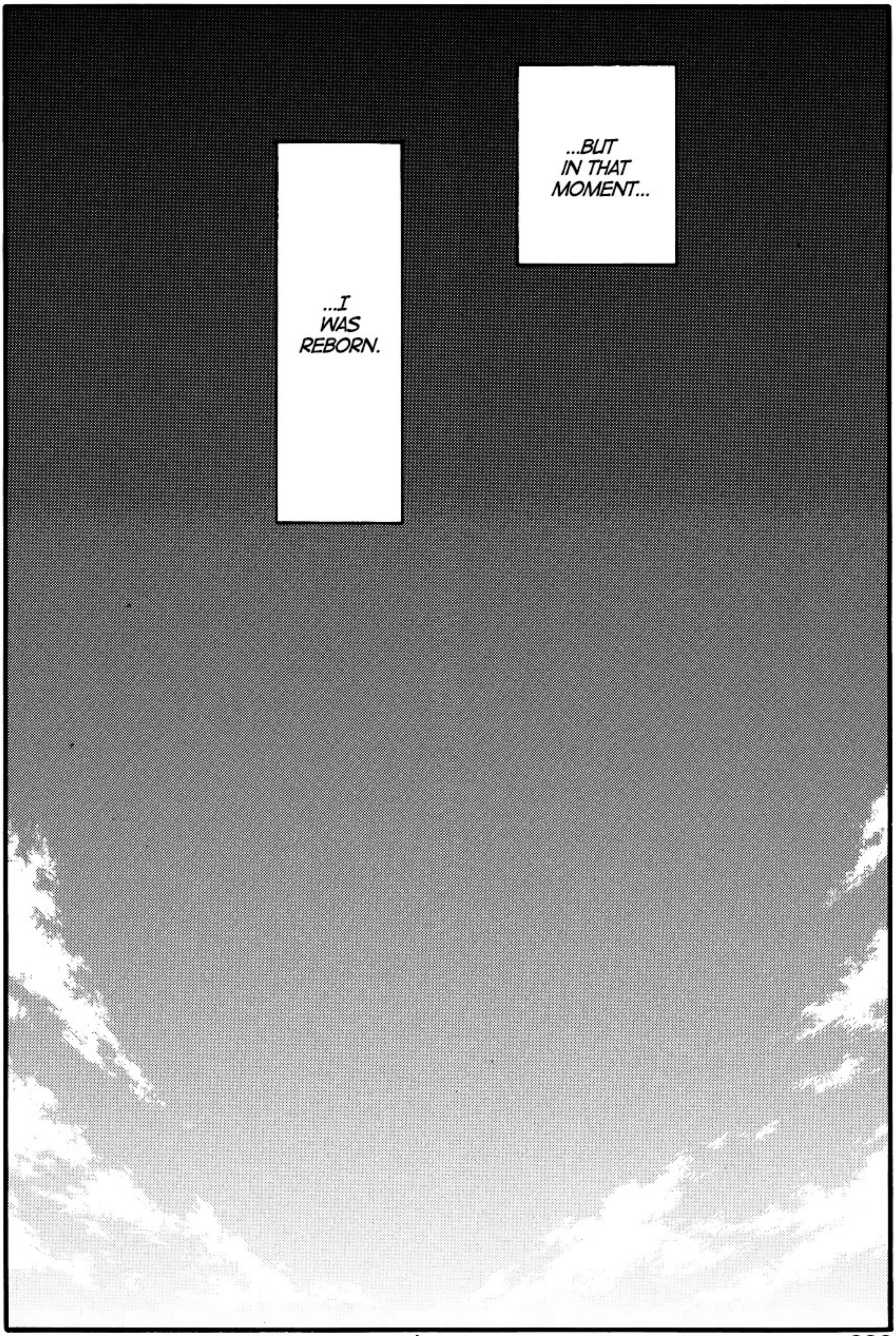




...YOUR NAME?

WHAT'S...





#09. TWO PEOPLE AGAINST THE WORLD / END

TURN TO THE NEXT

TRIGUN MAXIMUM

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

publishers
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collection designer
STEPHEN REICHERT

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LIA RIBACCHI

English-language version produced by DARK HORSE COMICS and DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING.

TRIGUN MAXIMUM vol. 12

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published by

Dark Horse Manga
a division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222
darkhorse.com

Digital Manga Publishing
1487 W. 178th St. Ste. 300
Gardena, CA 90248
dmpbooks.com

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First edition: Janurary 2008
ISBN: 978-1-59307-881-2

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in Canada

TRIGUN ULTIMATE

A COMPLETE FAN OVERHAUL OF: TRIGUN & TRIGUN MAXIMUM

CLEANER, EDITOR:
D / DOMFOCK

WRITERS:
D, VULPANA & ARTH

SPECIAL THANKS:
- TO THE AMAZING COMMUNITY OF TRICORD FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK!
- TO FRIENDS FOR DEALING WITH THE WORKAHOLIC INSANITY.

CREDITS:
TRIGUN BELONGS TO YASUHIRO NIGHTOW.

PUBLISHED BY SHONEN GAHOSHA IN JAPAN AND DARK HORSE COMICS IN THE US.

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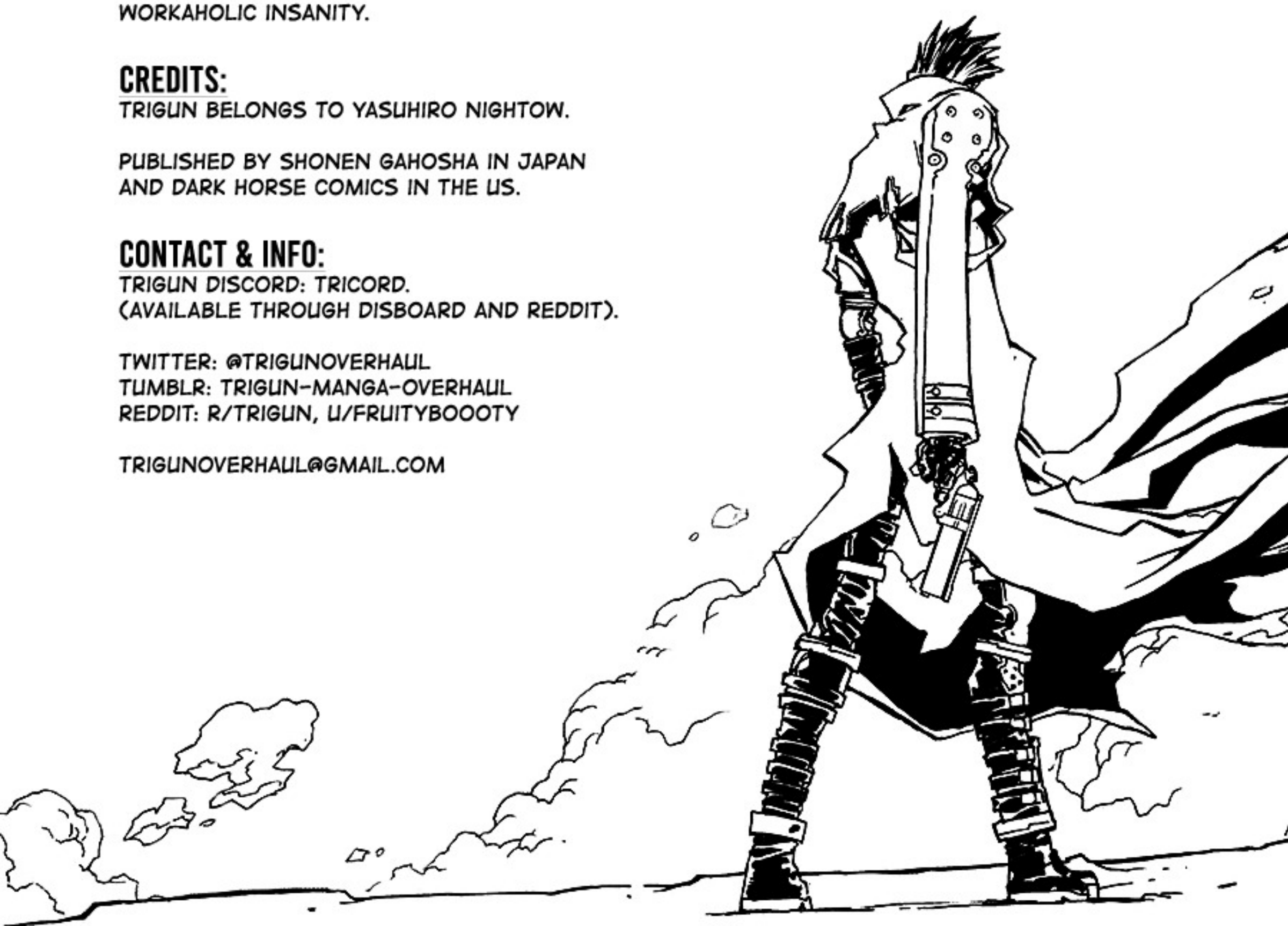

TRIGUN MAXIMUM

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!

12

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THE GUNSLINGER ASCENDS TO THE HEAVENS!

With a fleet of rescue ships from Earth facing off against Knives, the humans in chaos on the ground, Livio renewing his struggle against Elendira, and Vash trying to keep everyone from getting hurt, *Trigun Maximum* promises a dizzying array of action. But in the midst of this multiple-front battle, Yasuhiro Nightow flashes back to the past, letting readers in on some background information on Knives, Vash, and even Legato Bluesummers. It's a freakish, frantic battle to the finish!

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